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Hafa Adai!

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Susupe Lake now a wildlife park

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Lake Susupe is now a wildlife park after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law a bill that designates the landmark and its surrounding wetland as a natural habitat to some species of birds.

House Bill 20-13, which was one of three bills Torres enacted before leaving for Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, is now Public Law 20-91.

All three bills—passed by the House and the Senate in the previous Legislature—can still be signed into law by the governor since they've already been transmitted to

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A view of Lake Susupe. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Muña: We still have a lot to do

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER



Muña

The past four months of repairs were only protective measures and that more permanent repairs have yet to begin for Public School System campuses affected by Super Typhoon Yutu last October.

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña emphasized this in an interview last Tuesday, noting that the process of getting majority of PSS campuses back to their full-day operations has been hastened by the help of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of

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'Solving the same problems'



Antonio Sablan, the former director of immigration under the Commonwealth, recalls that the entry of foreign workers was welcome on the islands but there were cases when they caught individuals trying to enter via fraudulent means. BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Before the federal government took control of immigration and labor systems in the CNMI in 2009—a process called federalization—the CNMI controlled its own immigration system and laws. The Commonwealth was in charge of who comes in and out and who are welcome and who are not.

Like many other countries that manage their own immigration systems, CNMI immigration laws were based on preserving culture and com-

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BACK AT NMC
Both staff and students of the Northern Marianas College celebrate their return to the As Terlaje campus yesterday with some barbecue, burgers, and hotdogs. ERWIN ENCINARES

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LIFE & STYLE
Karl Lagerfeld, the iconic couturier at Chanel and Fendi, died Tuesday in Paris.
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Local

Manila amends suit vs 3 DOC commissioners

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Inmate Reynaldo A. Manila has filed a second amended complaint against former Department of Corrections commissioner Robert A. Guerrero and two other DOC officials over the blindness of his left eye.

Manila specified in the amended complaint that he is suing Guerrero, then-DOC commissioner Georgia M. Cabrera, and then-acting DOC commissioner Jose K. Pangelinan in their individual capacities.

Manila amended his complaint after the federal court last month dismissed from his lawsuit the CNMI government, Guerrero, Pangelinan, and Cabrera in their official capacities for lack of jurisdiction.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said the claim against them must be dismissed because the Commonwealth and any official capacity defendants are immune from suit for damages under Section 1983.

Section 1983 is the statute that creates a remedy for violations of federal rights committed by persons acting under color of state law.

Manglona said because amendment to the lawsuit would be futile, the dismissal is with prejudice, which means Manila can no longer re-file the claims against the CNMI government, Guerrero, Pangelinan, and Cabrera in their official capacities.

Manglona, however, did not dismiss Guerrero, Pangelinan, and Cabrera from the lawsuit to allow Manila to provide more information whether he is suing them in their individual capacities.

Manglona noted that Manila's first amended complaint clearly describes deliberate indifference to serious medical needs, even if it doesn't say so in so many words.

The judge said Manila's claim and relief sought clearly signal that these officials are sought to be held personally liable for their actions.

In the amended complaint he filed without a lawyer, Manila alleges that DOC officers unreasonably delayed in sending him off-island for eye surgery—first for retinal detachment of his left eye, then for cataracts in his right eye.

Manila said Guerrero was the DOC commissioner when he was diagnosed with retinal detachment on his left eye.

He said Guerrero knew that delaying and not providing any treatment was excessive risk to his health and would ultimately result in permanent blindness to his left eye.

Manila said Pangelinan took over as acting DOC commissioner when Guerrero was transferred to the Department of Public Safety.

He said Pangelinan was informed in writing by his then-lawyer Steven Pixley about his serious medical needs, stressing the extreme urgency of his eye condition.

Manila said that, when Cabrera was the DOC commissioner, she refused to approve his eye surgery, which a doctor had recommended.

He said Cabrera told him that cataract surgery is not necessary because his condition was not life-threatening.

Manila underwent eye surgery in Guam on Jan. 9, 2018.

NMC back in As Terlaje

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College re-opened its As Terlaje campus yesterday to its students.

NMC resumed classes at its original location by greeting students with freshly grilled burgers and hotdogs, along with other refreshments and a new set of school supplies.

The resumption of morning classes signals the continuation of the Fall 2018 semester.

Fall morning classes have been on hold since Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI last October 2018.

"I am pleased and happy with the turnout of our students as well as the community leaders that are here to support and welcome our students back," NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Sens. Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan), Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), and Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) were among the few politicians that dropped by the campus yesterday morning. Reps. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) and Luis John Castro (R-Saipan), and acting governor Arnold I. Palacios were also spotted at the scene, along with Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Claudio Norita, NMC Board of Regents chair Charles Cepeda, U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency Region XI administrator Bill Roche, and several other ranking officials of the CNMI government.

"We also had some private businesses here," said Eliptico, noting TanHoldings president Jerry Tan and people from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation handing out laptop bags to the students.

"It was great. It shows that our students are committed to completing their semester and completing their journey toward their degree," he said, adding that majority of the students that showed up yesterday morning were fall 2018 morning class students.

Some of the students *Saipan Tribune* interviewed yesterday were just as happy to get back on campus and closer to their degrees.

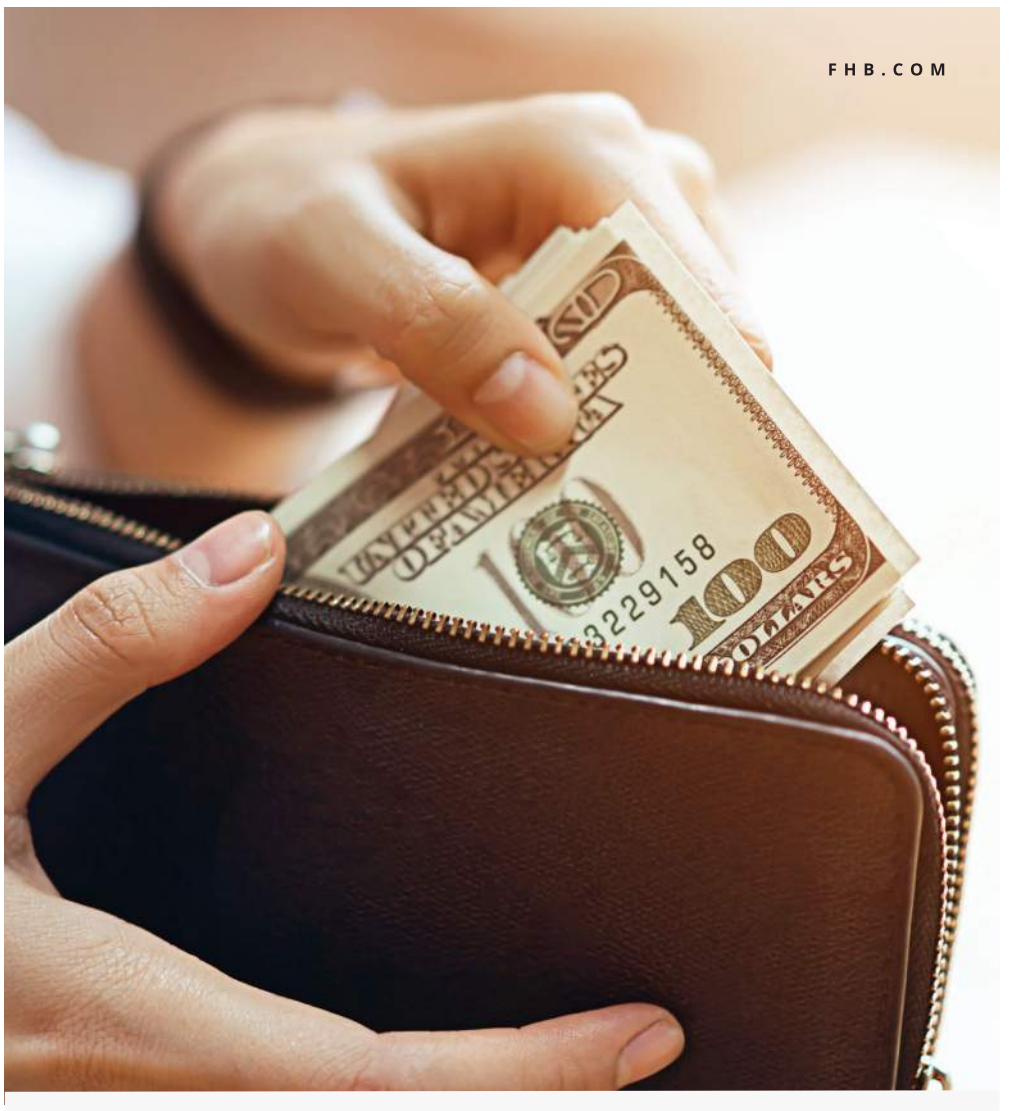
"My first class…was easy going," said 21-year-old Husky V. Cucal, a senior taking up liberal arts. "I have been feeling okay since Super Typhoon Yutu hit and it is good to continue my education and work on finishing up my semester until I graduate…by next semester," he said.

A 19-year-old nursing major who asked to be identified only by her first name, May, told *Saipan Tribune* that the temporary classrooms were intimidating at first but "when I went inside, it was really comfortable for everyone in class and kind of normal," she said.

"[NMC] provides us with a lot of equipment [and they] gave us a lot of time to finish up our assignments, so it's okay," she added.

Twenty-year-old natural resource management major Sabrina Santos was excited to be back on campus.

"The classrooms are actually really nice and cold inside, so I can't wait [to continue my classes]," she said. "It's a decent classroom. I want to get the Fall 2018 semester over with so I can graduate next [spring]."



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‘Nothing frivolous in discrimination suit vs World Resort’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A federal judge has found no proof that a discrimination lawsuit filed against Saipan World Resort is frivolous.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled yesterday that she has found nothing to indicate that an employment discrimination lawsuit filed by a former supervisor against World Resort is frivolous or malicious.

She gave Sathiyapalan Kalarikkal the go-signal in his lawsuit against the hotel’s owner, World Corp., saying that World Resort is not immune to monetary damages.

Kalarikkal had filed the lawsuit without a lawyer and had asked to be allowed to file the suit without requiring him to first pay for fees and costs. Manglona approved Kalarikkal’s request, saying all such complaints must be screened to ensure that they are not frivolous or malicious, that they state a claim on which relief may be granted, and they do not seek monetary relief against an immune defendant.

Manglona directed the court’s clerk to summon World Corp. and authorized the U.S. Marshal to serve the complaint and summons.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to get comments from Saipan World Resort.

Kalarrikal was an employee of World Resort in early 2018. His complaint did not state what his job was, but it appears he was a supervisor at Oasis Massage within World Resort. He was working under an employment contract that expired March 31, 2018, and a CW-1 visa that expired Sept. 30, 2018.

On Jan. 18, 2018, the hotel’s human resources manager, Jun Ham, allegedly informed him that the company would not renew his contract or apply to renew his CW-1 visa, saying that World Resort was closing the Oasis Massage.

The plaintiff said Ham told him that “Indian massage is not in demand and your skill is no more needed.”

Kalarikkal felt this remark to be discriminatory and derogatory.

He asked to be transferred to another department but Ham allegedly responded that, while company staff and managers can transfer, supervisors cannot.

Kalarikkal said he offered to be demoted in order to transfer, but Ham allegedly kept forcing him to look for a new employer instead.

The next day, Jan. 19, 2018, Kalarikkal sent a letter to general manager Henry Kim to reconsider the decision and allow him to transfer.

Kim allegedly responded that transfer would not be possible, but that World Resort might extend his contract for a few months.

On Jan. 30, 2018, World Resort posted job vacancy announcements on the CNMI Department of Labor website for Oasis Massage’s staff and manager, but not for Kalarikkal’s position.

Subsequently, Kalarikkal said, World Resort extended the staff and managers’ contracts a full year, to March 31, 2019, but not his contract.

On April 4, 2018, Kalarikkal signed a contract that extended his job for only four months, to Aug. 31, 2018.

Kalarikkal said that, on Aug. 27, 2018, management issued a memorandum temporarily re-assigning the staff of Oasis Massage to another department, but not him.

Kalarikkal then filed a charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. On Nov. 5, 2018, the EEOC gave him a right-to-sue letter, notifying him that he had 90 days to file a lawsuit based on the discrimination charge.

Kalarikkal filed this lawsuit on Feb. 7, 2019. He asserts that because of World Resort’s discrimination against him, he lost the opportunity to renew his CW-1 visa and suffered unemployment and severe trauma to himself and his family. He asks the court to hold World Resort liable to pay him damages.

MLSC to hold free probate workshop

The Marianas Office of Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will be hosting a series of probate workshops. These are intended as community legal education to help people in the CNMI understand the probate process. The second workshop will be held Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019, at 3pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and will focus on preliminaries before filing probate in court. The workshops are free. Call MLSC at 234-7729 for more information. ***(PR)***

Tasi readying to make waves

An original production by Mount Carmel School’s Theatre Club called *Tasi* would be playing at the Pacific Islands Club tonight and tomorrow, in a showcase of local talents.

Doors will open at 6:30pm each night at the Charley’s Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Inspired by Disney’s *Moana*, *Tasi* is an original story written by club adviser and school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero. The story follows Tasi as she struggles between family expectations, traditions, and her own aspirations. The production will also feature music from and about the islands.

Organizations that support the musical includes local telecommunications company IT&E and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs’ Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture.

Tickets are $10 for general admission seats and $25 for front row seats.

Tickets are available in the MCS business office at their Susupe campus but are limited to only 50 premium seats and 150 general admission seats per night.

Advance ticket purchases are recommended due to the limited seating, the website noted. Those interested in securing their tickets may call the school at 234-6184; visit the school’s business office in Susupe; or visit their mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(Erwin Encinares)***



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Open auditions for new FOA production

The Friends of the Arts is scheduling its production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*" for the early part of May. All persons interested in being a part of this popular Broadway play are invited to an open audition being held this Sunday, Feb. 24 at 2pm on the campus of Marianas High School, Room C203. The play has many parts, including an Adult and Young People's Chorus.

This is a musical with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The story is based on the " coat of many colors " story of Joseph from the Bible's Book of Genesis. The play was the first Lloyd Webber and Rice musical to be performed publicly.

The FOA production of the musical is under the musical direction of Katie Hoyt, and the stage direction of Harold Easton.

For further information call 285-1657, or e-mail eastonaa@hotmail.com. Whether an experienced or aspiring actor or actress, come and audition for a role. ***(PR)***

MIFICPA to host tax seminar

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, or MIFICPA, invites the public to this year's tax seminar on March 2, 2019, from 8am to 12pm, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. This year's seminar will focus on tax updates for 2018/2019, changes in tax laws and tax filing requirements, among others.

The seminar will be conducted by David J. Burger, CPA , the managing partner of Burger, Comer & Magliari.

The registration fee for members is $25, inclusive of membership fee, snacks and certificate of attendance. Non-members and non-accountants are also welcome for the same fee. Registration starts at 7:30am.

To facilitate the question-and-answer portion of the seminar, you can pre-register and turn in your question(s) ahead of time through the organizers. For reservation and more details, call or email: Angie Mamaril at 783-1857 (angiehmamaril@yahoo.com); Lois Manese at 286-8663 (eloisa_manese@yahoo.com); Cris Bucalig at 287-0945 (cris_bong@yahoo.com); Rose Badidoy at 588 0425 (roseannbadidoy@yahoo.com); Butch Ordas at 789-9276 butchordas@yahoo.com); Gloria Balila at mgmbalila@yahoo.com; Paul Saniel (paulangelosaniel@yahoo.com); or Yho Villavicencio at 285-9017 (yhobowl300@gmail.com) ***(PR)***

SOLVING

From Page 1

munity, security, and honoring rights—whether U.S. citizens or non-U.S. citizens, said former CNMI Immigration director Antonio Sablan.

He said that Commonwealth's immigration laws were patterned after the U.S. "We did that because we were basically patterned under the U.S, Constitution."

"This was also true with enforcement—how we detained and deported people, how you are supposed to extend due process to people. We enforced laws directly, like if any person wants to enter the CNMI and presents fraudulent documents, we put them back up on the airplane [and] we don't need to go to court for that," he added.

Sablan, who is now the Legislative Bureau chief, recalls that the influx of foreign workers were welcome on the islands but there were cases where they caught individuals trying to enter via fraudulent means.

"We look at the work description and it would say construction. But when we interview the person, the truth comes out where they really have zero construction skill or experience."

"There were also cases where people say they are this 'person' but after strict scrutiny, we find that that identity belongs to somebody else. We dealt with them accordingly and lawfully," he added.

Eventually, many wrongdoings found their way into the islands and abuse was prevalent—exploitation by employers of foreign employees, tax evasion, permanent settlement of temporary workers, and distorted trade agreements during the garment factory era.

These circumstances caught the attention of the U.S. government and, in 2008, U.S. Public Law 110-229, or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2009, paved the way for U.S. federal immigration law to be implemented in the Commonwealth.

Former attorney general Pamela Brown-Blackburn, who currently heads the Pacific Ombudsman Humanitarian Law, said that federalization of immigration in the CNMI did not eradicate the abuses and illegal transactions that happened before the federal government took over local immigration.

"Post-federalization, the CNMI was at the mercy of whether or not (federal) departments wanted to expand the resources to prosecute these cases."

"The most frustrating part about federalization is, although the feds would like to call them 'normalization of immigration,' they had the chance to actually use the CNMI as a pilot project for lots of really good ideas that they have never been able to implement in other places because it is just too big. There's no way to isolate things to where you can actually see the effect," she said.

"So, with them not choosing that path, but choosing instead the regular bureaucratic 'just stay up with the papers, move it along' [system] it is hard not only on the economy of the CNMI, but it is hard on the fabric of the culture because the CNMI has always been a melting pot," she added.

Brown-Blackburn said that, as the attorney general during the administration of former governor Juan N. Babauta, they fought hard to make immigration laws well enforced. "We were prosecuting those cases of employers performing illegal acts and abuse with employees and even after the Trafficking Protection Act was passed in 2000."

"We were still prosecuting it under our own laws in our own local courts and so we were bringing these cases to our judges and arguing them vehemently that these people (foreign workers) should not be held liable because they are victims and the perpetuators are really the employers. We got pushed back because it was a new concept but we were getting there before federalization took over," she added.

Brown-Blackburn recalls cases that would always fall apart because "employers" knew who to bribe. "Now they don't know who to bribe but they know how to fly underneath the radar. …As is the case generally, ethnic groups feed on their own. …Filipinos take advantage of Filipinos, Chinese of Chinese, Bangladeshi of Bangladeshi. …They often have the assistance of local employers who may not be of the same ethnic group, but take advantage of people that they know are in a gullible position," she said.

"We have a case right now where an employer has been here for many years and still abusing workers. …We are filing with the local Department of Labor and, thank goodness, we have a proactive local Labor again…but, yes, it just keeps going on and on as these are same guys, same faces doing the same business that I was trying to get when I was AG," she added.

Federal agencies such as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are present in the CNMI, but Brown-Blackburn acknowledges the challenges that these agencies face. "The fact that there aren't enough federal investigative officers on island is a big challenge. You cannot enforce laws if you can't investigate it," she said.

"The guys that are here are very dedicated but, at some point, the resources just need to be replenished…The CNMI is so far way that it is 'out of sight, out of mind' and the only thing we have going for us is it is a militarily strategic location. That's why we got Yutu relief as fast as we did. As for other resources, they [U.S. government] are focused on bigger problems," she added.

Brown-Blackburn's office currently works with the U.S. Attorney's Office in bringing justice to marginalized populations. "The U.S. Attorney's Office has been kind to take in cases as many as possible. Mind you, they are very expensive cases to prosecute to the fullest extent…so we can't expect them all to end up in front of a court, so there has to be some other means of getting justice for the victims and blackballing the employers."

"Because the U.S. Attorney's Office has connections to the State Department, they understand how to reach and they did. In one case, they reached out to the embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Bangladesh stopped allowing CW-1 workers to come to Saipan. Now that they have been alerted as to which companies resort to fraud and abuse of employees and avoid them, now we can have CW workers coming from Bangladesh," she added.

Pacific Islands Ombudsman Humanitarian Law, which Brown-Blackburn heads, is a non-profit organization that is at the forefront of protecting laborers, women, and migrants. It is currently holding a fundraiser to help victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

"I can't tell you how many people walk in our office… by word of mouth about the work that we do among workers. People would just walk in and tell me things. If we can't help, we offer to call the employer and point them (workers) in the direction where they might find some type of help," she said.

"There should be a kind of office inside the government—either federal or local—or inside the Legislature or [Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's] office. We need a very proactive place…not necessarily to run interference with federal and local agencies but an office that would actually listen to people and extend some type of assistance or relief," she added.

With Gov. Ralph DLG Torres currently in Washington, D.C. for a planned Section 902 consultation with the federal government to discuss matters related to CNMI immigration, Brown-Blackburn said we should start talking about thousands of people here who shouldn't have to struggle about their status all the time. "It shouldn't be more than just an issue whether or not we have enough H-2B workers. We need to raise it even further."

"Thousands have been here for so many years, that CNMI resident cards is something we need to talk about again, something we need to explore again," she added.

MUÑA

From Page 1

Engineers but the permanent repairs are just starting.

"We are still a long way to recovery," Muña said when asked about the progress of PSS' recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu. He did concede that, "compared to how we were four months ago, we are able to open up many of our schools."

He said that PSS set target dates for the resumption of classes and those target dates did raise some eyebrows on whether or not PSS can make that happen.

He credits the teams at PSS—"who were willing to give anything and everything they had to get the students back to school"—to meet those target dates.

While PSS campuses are already mostly on full-day schedules, four campuses still operate on half-day sessions and even though majority of PSS schools are back to operation, he noted that the repairs done over the past four months were only the bare minimum to get classes moving.

"The things we are doing right now are called protective measures—to prevent further damage that have already been done by the typhoon. We are already at the inner walls and the tiles [of Oleai Elementary School]—but those are just temporary repairs," he said.

"Once we get our project worksheets approved by FEMA, that is when we start the permanent repairs. Our Facility Development and Management staff are still working with FEMA in wrapping up our inspections," he said, adding that it should be done by now since the Hopwood campus was saved as the last for inspection.

"We were able to accomplish a lot within the past four months, thanks to FEMA and the USACE being here, along with the support of the Governor's Office and the CNMI Legislature," Muña said, adding that the U.S. Department of the Interior assisted PSS with a grant.

SUSUPE

From Page 1

his office.

The lake, named after the village where it is located, has been a sanctuary and stopover for several species of migratory birds over the years, including those from other countries in Asia because of the winter season or due to climate change where they are living.

The Marianas common moorhen, endemic only to the CNMI and is on the endangered bird species list, also calls Susupe Lake its home. Ironwood trees grow around the lake, which also has little ponds that have fancy-tail guppies.

P.L. 20-91 would also allow the creation of environmental-related programs that could help prevent Susupe Lake from being destroyed by erosion and water runoff from nearby hillsides and other polluters that threaten the lake's endangered wildlife and their natural habitat.

"These can be prevented by creating programs that are adaptable to such environment, which would provide protection to the endangered wildlife species and their habitats, saving Susupe Lake and its surrounding wetland," states the new law.

The Division of Parks and Recreation, under the Department of Land and Natural Resources, is tasked to manage the park. It is also tasked to prepare the development plan that will show areas where the public would not be allowed to enter and where pathways, public amenities, concessions, small boat dock, floating dock (raft), public restroom, and a parking area will be built.

The division will also be tasked with issuing permits for the concession rights at the park.

The division, in consultation with the Division of Fish and Wildlife, shall provide guidelines for visitors to comply to protect the park and its species. They can also impose fines and other penalties based on regulations on the use of public parks and other recreational facilities.

All money collected from the operations of the concessions and other revenue-producing activities at the park shall be deposited in a division account.

The Department of Public Lands will survey the wildlife park to determine its actual area and boundaries.

San Nicolas withdraws request for evidentiary hearing

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member Eric Henry Cruz San Nicolas has withdrawn his request for an evidentiary hearing in his traffic case.

According to court documents, San Nicolas filed a motion to compel discovery and asked for an evidentiary hearing last Dec. 18, 2018.

On Feb. 5, 2019, San Nicolas, through his lawyer, Jean Pierre Nogues, withdrew the motion and the request but maintained the motion to suppress evidence resulting from what he contends was an "illegal" traffic stop.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, San Nicolas, through his lawyer, cited the 4th Amendment and 14th Amendment of the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions to ask the Superior Court to suppress all evidence arising from the traffic stop in Koblerville.

Police officer Rudolpho Hermosilla Jr. had cited San Nicolas for driving while under the influence of alcohol and refusing to submit to a breath test.

In San Nicolas' motion to suppress, Nogues said that, according to a report by Hermosilla himself, Stephanie Borja told the Department of Public Safety on July 28, 2018, at 1:30am that her cell phone and car keys had been stolen by her boyfriend, San Nicolas.

Nogues said Borja also alleged that San Nicolas was drunk at the time, gave a license plate for her car, and indicated she lives along Tinaktak Drive in Koblerville.

Nogues said that, according to Hermosilla, he was parked on or near Tinaktak Drive at 3:24am that same day when he saw the vehicle that Borja had reported.

Nogues said the vehicle was moving along Tinaktak Drive.

Nogues said the officer made a violation stop of the vehicle. It appears, the lawyer said, that the sole basis for the "violation stop" was Borja's allegations made two hours earlier that San Nicolas had "stolen" her car keys and "was intoxicated."

After San Nicolas was stopped, he was then arrested for DUI.

Nogues said the 4th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution grants "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures." The defense counsel said the CNMI has incorporated these same rights through Article I, Section 3 of the CNMI Constitution.

Nogues said the officer cited San Nicolas only for traffic violations and not for theft, nor did the officer's report indicate seeing San Nicolas drunk or driving recklessly.

"The sole basis for the stop appears to be the accusations allegedly made by Stephanie Borja two hours earlier," Nogues said.

He said a hearsay allegation that a person was drunk is not a basis to pull over a vehicle. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Capacity-building scholarships for fisheries are now available

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and its Education Committee members announced yesterday the availability of up to three scholarships for academic year 2019-2020.

These scholarships support the aspiration of American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI to build their capacity to effectively manage their fisheries and related resources through employment of their own people.

These scholarships cover the cost of tuition and fees and some living expenses.

The U.S. Pacific Territories Capacity-Building Scholarships may be used for the following:

Completion of the junior and senior years to obtain one of the following undergraduate degrees:

BA or BS in Marine Science at the University of Hawai`i at Hilo, or ii) BS in Oceanography with a concentration in Fisheries Science at the Hawaii Pacific University; or

2. Completion of one of the following graduate degrees:

MS or PhD in Marine Biology at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology,

MS in Marine Science at Hawaii Pacific University,

MS in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science at the University of Hawai`i at Hilo, or MS in Biology at the University of Guam.

For undergraduates, there is an expectation that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid will be completed early and Pell grants obtained so the relevant university's Financial Aid Office can determine the amount of aid needed. The scholarship application can be accessed online at https://bit.ly/2V77ke1. For further details, contact Sylvia Spalding at info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov or phone (808) 522-8220. ***(PR)***

Small craft advisory and high surf warning out

Fresh to strong trade winds are projected to persist this week. Also, a trade-wind swell will generate hazardous surf conditions and continue to produce a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs all this week.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, fresh to strong northeast trade winds will continue to be hazardous for small craft through Friday. Seas and winds will build over the weekend as Tropical Storm Wutip approaches the waters.

A small craft advisory is now in effect until 6pm Tuesday next week.

The trade-wind swell will produce a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs this week. A high surf advisory in effect until 6am Monday, while there will be a high risk of rip currents through Tuesday afternoon.

Northeast winds 20 to 25 knots are expected through Friday. Winds will increase over the weekend as Tropical Storm Wutip passes south of Guam.

Seas of 9 to 11 feet will continue through Friday. Seas will then begin to build over the weekend as Wutip moves south of Guam waters.

Along north facing reefs, hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet will build over the next few days. Surf will remain hazardous at least through the weekend.

In east facing reefs, hazardous surf of 9 to 12 feet is now occurring and will continue to build over the next few days. Surf will remain hazardous at least through the weekend.

Hazardous surf conditions may spread to south and west facing reefs over the weekend as Tropical Storm Wutip moves southwest and west of the Marianas. A high surf warning is possible as well.

The public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions.

The public is also being advised to avoid venturing near reefs and beaches, especially those facing north and east facing reefs. Strong rip currents will be life threatening. If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm, swim parallel to shore then back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly. ***(EOC)***

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

How to Start a Business

Learn how to get your business started with this step-by-step process that includes an introduction to business plans, legal forms of business ownership, funding options, and best business practices.

You will leave with vital information, resources, and tools that will help you to start and manage a business successfully. This training is an entry level training.

TO REGISTER:
https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events/4313

For more information, visit our website at www.pacificsbdc.com or call
CNMI SBDC Office at 664-3018



Date: February 26, 2019
Time: 9:00AM- 11:00AM

FREE TRAINING

Location:
CDA Board Room,
1st Floor, San Jose

Presented by:



Nicole Babauta
Director &
Business Advisor
CNMI SBDC

DISCLAIMER: The Pacific Islands SBDC Network is funded in part through a co-operative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinan, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950 Tel: (670)664-3018 or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

The Antidegradation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands states that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and that this shall be the public policy of the Commonwealth. Any proposed activity that will impact the waters of the Commonwealth must receive a Water Quality Certification, BECQ must assure that the proposed activity complies with all applicable provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Standards and federal Clean Water Act, will not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of the existing or designated use of the Commonwealth waters, and that all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and human health.

Upon receiving an application, BECQ issues a public notification which describes the proposed activity and potential impacts on water quality, aquatic life and human health. A thirty (30) day public comment period will commence from the date of the first publication of the notice.

The administrator an application, BECQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the application if a hearing is requested by the public. BECQ will make determination for issuing a Water Quality Certification based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

BECQ is soliciting comments on the following application for a CNMI Water Quality Certification.

1. APPICANT: CNMI Department of Public Lands, P.O. Box 500380, Saipan, MP 96950
2. APPLICABLE STATUTIRY AUTHORITY: CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No.3-23); CNMI Water Quality Standards, Parts 600 (Commonwealth Register Vol.36 No.05, May 28, 2014).
3. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACITVITY: The Managaha Wastewater Treatment Plant is located on Managaha Island, Saipan, and discharges to a leaching field located approximately 10 feet inward of the western shoreline of Managaha Island by the Tanapag Harbor.
4. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITITY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is proposing to issue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit authorizing the discharge of treated wastewater from the Managaha Island wastewater treatment system. The treatment plant was built and completed in early 2007 in response to enforcement actions taken by BECQ and USEPA for violations of water quality standards caused by the failure of the previous treatment system.
5. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The new treatment system provides substantially enhanced treatment performance compared to old system. Nonetheless, treated wastewater discharges to the groundwater of Managaha may still adversely affect water quality. See page along the shoreline will transport wastewater constituents such as nutrients (nitrate, phosphate), pathogens (bacteria, viruses), and other wastewater pollutants to the near-shore waters, primarily on the northern shoreline of Managaha. However, due to the enhanced treatment, which includes effluent disinfection, and effect of strong shoreline currents, it is not expected that the discharge will result in violations of water quality criteria.
6. PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES: The primary mitigation measures for the discharge of treated effluent are proper treatment plant operation and maintenance, and requirements(prohibitions) regarding the types of wastes and substances that can be disposed of into the sewer system. Under the USEPA permit and the BECQ WQC, performance. In addition, water quality monitoring of the nearby shoreline will be required.

Written comments and inquires should be submitted to BECQ within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication of this notice. Please mail comments to administrator, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950.

Russian national's lawsuit vs DHS is dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has dismissed with finality the lawsuit filed by a Russian national against U.S. Department of Homeland Security for allegedly hiding documents related to his humanitarian parole.

In a written order Tuesday that granted DHS' motion to dismiss, Manglona noted that Milan Fargo's complaint shows that he has failed to exhaust his administrative remedies.

Manglona said Fargo "has not shown futility of administrative appeal or other good cause to waive" the Freedom of Information Act's exhaustion requirement.

As no other causes of action remain in the lawsuit, the judge directed the court's clerk to enter a judgment in favor of DHS and against Fargo, and to close the matter.

Fargo has 30 days to appeal the dismissal order before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

According to court records, the 65-year-old Fargo, whose original name is Nassir Nazarovich Kourbanov, filed the case against DHS to compel the agency to issue him immigration documents, including some documents from his alien file pursuant to FOIA.

Fargo was placed on removal proceedings in September 2016.

He has been fighting this and was released on his own recognizance.

Fargo argues that he was granted humanitarian parole by U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in San Diego, California, in 2002 and that acquiring proof of his parole will help him fight the federal government's move to have him deported.

To secure that proof, he made an FOIA request for documents from USCIS, INS' successor agency, in August 2015.

In granting DHS' motion to dismiss the lawsuit, Manglona said the FOIA request itself is not in the record before the court, but the response from the director of USCIS' FOIA Operations at the National Records Center is.

Manglona said the director's letter advised Fargo that he has a right to an administrative appeal.

Fargo made a separate FOIA request to the U.S. Marshals Service.

Manglona said that request, like the NRC request, is not in the record.

On Feb. 23, 2016, the Office of General Counsel sent Fargo a letter, in which it notified him that it had located one document responsive to his request and that the document was enclosed.

Like the NRC, the OGC advised Fargo of his right to appeal administratively within 60 days.

Manglona said no documents were withheld.

On Aug. 5, 2016, Fargo sent an online inquiry to the OGC's FOIA Help Desk. He acknowledged receiving the Feb. 23 letter on March 10 and wrote that he just realized only that day that he can appeal the office's decision regarding the documents being withheld pursuant to the FOIA.

The Help Desk acknowledged the inquiry and indicated it would respond in one business day.

Manglona said no response is in the record.

On Aug. 24, 2016, Fargo filed the complaint, which accused DHS of hiding from him any information related to his purported 2002 INS parole.

Manglona said failure to exhaust administrative remedies under FOIA does not deprive the district court of jurisdiction but is a jurisprudential requirement to afford the agency the opportunity to exercise its discretion and to make a record for judicial review.

Manglona said it is undisputed that Fargo never appealed USCIS' decision to withhold documents.

The judge said Fargo did not plead facts showing an appeal.

She said Fargo affirms the failure to appeal in his opposition, but raises an excuse of ignorance.

Manglona said plaintiff may not have been aware that failure to appeal within the agency is required before a court will hear his complaint, but he cannot plead excusable ignorance.

Manglona said that, although English is not Fargo's native language and he sometimes has difficulties with grammar and diction, he has displayed considerable intellectual ability to grasp abstract legal concepts and formulate arguments, and has demonstrated that he reads the court's order closely.

Manglona said even after a separate FOIA request to the OGC was denied in February 2016 and he was notified by that office of his right to an administrative appeal, he did not take timely action.

The judge said Fargo has not explained why it took him until August 2016 to realize that administrative appeal was possible. "By that time, he may have been confusing the two FOIA requests, that he wrote the OGC to appeal the withholding of documents that OGC did not withhold," Manglona said.

Manglona said Fargo has not shown that he ever wrote to USCIS to request that the agency toll the 60-day period and allow him to administratively appeal.

Last October, Manglona dismissed the lawsuit. She concluded that asylum is impossible for Fargo while he is present in the CNMI, he has failed to show a clear and certain right to a replacement permanent resident card, he has failed to follow through with basic means of obtaining relief from immigration authorities on his advance parole and EAD claim.

The judge ruled that Fargo's claim for relief as to his alleged application for a replacement permanent green card is dismissed without prejudice. Fargo was allowed to re-file the claim. He, however, failed to re-file it by the deadline.

DHS then moved to dismiss Fargo's remaining cause of action—for judicial review of the December 2015 partial denial of his FOIA request for documents by USCIS—on grounds of failure to exhaust administrative remedies.



HOPWOOD'S TEMPORARY CAMPUS
Members of the CNMI Legislature, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, and Board of Education members cut the ribbon in a ceremony last Tuesday as the Adm. Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School moves to a temporary campus in Koblerville.
ERWIN ENCINARES

Deadline to apply for absentee voting is Feb. 26

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita Villagomez reminded Precinct 3 voters Tuesday that next Tuesday, Feb. 26, is the deadline to apply for absentee voting by electronic/mail.

Villagomez said they started accepting requests for absentee ballots last Jan. 23.

As of last Jan. 28, Precinct 3 had 3,361 registered voters.

In the Nov. 13 general election, Precinct 3 had 3,795 voters. Of that number, 2,867, including absentee voters, for a total of 75.54 percent, cast their votes.

Villagomez also said yesterday that they are already printing 4,000 ballots for the March 23 special election.

She said CEC will open on Saturday and Sunday when the early voting starts on March 16.

There are four candidates—former representative Donald Cabrera Barcinas of the Democratic Party, Marco Taisakan Peter of the CNMI Republican Party, and independents David Castro Sablan and Mariano DLG Fajardo.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres set the March 23 special election after the death of representative Francisco D. Dela Cruz last month.

'Protect against measles—vaccinate'

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is advising the public on the availability and importance of the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine, or MMR, due to large outbreaks of measles in the Philippines and the United States, particularly Washington state, Oregon, and California.

"We want to encourage the community to get vaccinated with the MMR vaccine and ensure that children are up to date with age appropriate immunizations," said the CHCC advisory.

"For those who are travelling to a measles infected area, we encourage getting the MMR vaccine 28 days prior to departure, with a minimum of 14 days prior to departure, to give the vaccine time to take effect.

"The CDC recommends two doses of the MMR vaccine given 28 days apart, with the second dose given at least 28 days before travel.

"Air travel additionally makes it easier for diseases to spread, particularly an airborne and highly contagious diseases like measles.

Adults with chronic conditions, such as diabetes, are at greater risk of complications from infection and even death if not properly immunized. Children under 12 months of age and people who have compromised immune systems are also at greater risk of contracting diseases that can make them very ill," said the CHCC advisory.

It said the MMR vaccine is not licensed for those under 12 months of age, and people with compromised immune systems—such as the elderly or people undergoing chemotherapy—often cannot get vaccinated. These vulnerable sectors of the population rely on "herd immunity," where the rest of the community protects them from disease by being vaccinated and healthy.

"The more people in our community who are vaccinated, the greater the net of protection around everyone. Getting ourselves and our children vaccinated not only protects our family; it also protects those around us at school, work, church, and everywhere we go in our community," states the CHCC advisory.

The MMR vaccine will be given at no cost by the CHCC Immunization Clinic, and at the Tinian and Rota health centers.

"Visit your local public health immunization clinic so we may assist you and your family in protecting against measles and other diseases for which there is a vaccine," the CHCC advisory added.

As a reminder, the MMR vaccine has been shown by multiple credible studies to be safe and effective, and there is no scientific link between the MMR vaccine and autism or any other health complications. The incorrect link between the MMR vaccine and autism resulted mainly from a study by Andrew Wakefield, which has since been retracted and proven false. On the other hand, the risks of not getting vaccinated are very real and can have dangerous consequences.

For more information contact CHCC's Public Health Immunization Program on Saipan at 236-8745/8708/8781, on Rota at 532-9451, and on Tinian at 433-9233. ***(PR)***

Ninth Circuit affirms dismissal of Dynasty suit vs USCIS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the federal court's order that dismissed the lawsuit of the now-defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino against U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and its officials over the denial of its petitions for CW-1 extension and transfer for its foreign workers.

The Ninth Circuit judges ruled that because the claims of Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd. are not justiciable, they affirmed the dismissal order of U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Manglona dismissed HKE's suit in 2017, citing the federal court's lack of jurisdiction. She ruled that because the period in which HKE petitioned for CW-1 permits for beneficiaries has expired, the court cannot provide a remedy for the alleged injury of workforce deprivation. HKE therefore lacks standing.

HKE had filed a petition for judicial review in district court after USCIS denied 151 CW-1 visa applications that would have allowed HKE to employ foreign workers at a casino in the NMI.

HKE asked the district court to remand the applications to USCIS with instructions to approve them and for a declaratory judgment that HKE is a "legitimate employer." Manglona dismissed the suit.

HKE appealed, asking the Ninth Circuit to reverse Manglona's order.

In affirming Manglona's ruling last week, Ninth Circuit judges Richard C. Tallman, N. Randy Smith, and Jay Bybee said that, for a plaintiff's claim to be justiciable, it "must have standing to bring the claim, and the claim must not be moot."

To establish standing, the judges said a plaintiff must show "an injury in fact, a sufficient causal connection between the injury and the conduct complained of, and, a likelihood that the injury will be redressed by a favorable decision."

The judges said a case is moot if there is no "present controversy as to which effective relief can be granted."

The judges said HKE's request that they instruct USCIS to approve the visa applications is not justiciable because they "may grant it no effective relief."

The judges said a CW-1 visa applicant must specify the dates for which the visa, if approved, would be effective.

"None of the visas HKE applied for would have been in effect beyond Nov. 7, 2015, and HKE has not submitted any further visa applications," the Ninth Circuit judges pointed out.

They said HKE has not requested that any alien be permitted to work in the U.S. for any present or further period.

The judges took notice of HKE's statement to the district court in another matter that it ceased operations in the NMI in March 2016.

"It follows that HKE no longer has need for CW-1 visas. Accordingly, even if HKE were to prevail on the merits of its suit at trial, no court could compel USCIS to issue HKE visas that would be effective going forward," the judges said.

The judges said HKE's request for a declaration that it is a "legitimate employer" is also not justiciable.

The judges said USCIS denied HKE's visa applications in part because the company did not meet its burden to establish that it was an "eligible employer engaged in legitimate business."

In reaching this determination, the judges said, the agency cited pending federal civil and criminal enforcement actions charging HKE with violations of the Bank Secrecy Act.

The judges said at the time USCIS issued its decision, HKE had entered into a non-prosecution agreement with the U.S. Attorney in which it stipulated to violations of the BSA and agreed to a three-year period of supervision during which it could be re-indicted if it violated the terms of the agreement.

HKE alleged that its reputation was injured after USCIS denied its visa applications.

"But there is no redress available for that injury in this posture," the judges pointed out.

The judges said the sources of HKE's alleged reputational injury are the civil and criminal enforcement proceedings that the U.S. government pursued against it, and any redress to that injury was to defending against the proceedings and appealing any adverse judgment.

The judges said neither USCIS nor the courts can change the outcome of these proceedings.

"Thus, because we cannot redress HKE's alleged injury, it lacks standing to pursue this claim," the judges said.

HKE has blamed USCIS of stigmatizing the company by designating it as an "illegitimate business" to the depriving it of its foreign workforce, which led to the eventual closure of Tinian Dynasty.

HKE, through counsel George Anthony Long, asserted that the stigma prejudiced HKE by severely interfering with the company's ability to operate its hotel and casino.

Long discussed the stigma issue in HKE's memorandum opposing U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson's and USCIS director Leon Rodriguez's motion to dismiss HKE's lawsuit.

In Johnson's and Rodriguez's reply to HKE's opposition, U.S. Department of Justice Office of Immigration Litigation trial attorney Heather Sokolower denied that USCIS designated HKE "as an illegitimate business" or ever refer to HKE as an "illegitimate business."

Sokolower said HKE mischaracterizes the agency actions.

HKE is suing USCIS, the DHS secretary, and USCIS director over the denial of its petitions for CW-1 extension and transfer for its foreign workers.

According to HKE's lawsuit, the final USCIS Administrative Appeals Office's adverse agency decision affirming that the company is not engaged in a legitimate business for CW purposes affects more than three quarters of Tinian Dynasty's employees.

HKE claimed it was harmed by the agency decision as it affects its ability to maintain and continue its business operations. Tinian Dynasty used to employ about 500 foreign workers.

SHRM meeting today moved to Hyatt ballroom

Due to the increasing number of attendees for the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter meeting today, Feb. 21, 2019, the meeting venue has been changed to the Hyatt Regency Ballroom, the former SandCastle, beginning at 11:30am.

SHRM's February general membership meeting, originally slated to be held at Giovanni's, will address updates on federal immigration laws and regulations.

Nelson Xu, a lawyer, will discuss updates and changes to immigration laws and regulations that affect CNMI businesses and employers, and what businesses and employers might want to do in order to better prepare for these changes.

Xu will also discuss other employment-based visas and options that employers may consider besides the H2-B, CW, and EAD (humanitarian parole).

Xu is a partner in the law firm of Baumann, Kondas & Xu, LLC.

This meeting is open to the public.

The presentation will cost $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, visit their website at http://nmichapter.shrm.org. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
PO Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
Phone (670) 433-2200 • Fax (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Meeting on Friday, February 22, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes
February 06, 2019
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. NEW BUSINESS
A. Review and Approval of Spring 2019 Applicants
IV. MISCELLANEOUS
V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.

[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

[3]Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ADDENDUM NO. 1
ITB19-DLNR/DFW-039

"BOAT CHARTER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BETWEEN SAIPAN AND ALAMAGAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

Due to non-submission of the above mentioned ITB, the Secretary of DLNR would like to extend the bid opening for another week. Therefore, this addendum is issued to reschedule the bid submission and opening dates for on-island and off-island bidders.

- Sealed bid submittals for this project must be submitted with one **(1) original and three (3) copies** to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, February 11, 2019 is changed to read **no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, February 28, 2019** and must be marked **ITB19-DLNR/DFW-039**.
- Bidders outside the Commonwealth must notify the Director of Procurement and Supply, in writing, of their intent to submit a Notice of Intent to Bid in order to receive this additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of the actual bid documents. This Notice of Intent to Bid may be any mode of written communication including facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or e-mailed to procurement@cnmidof.net but must be received no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, February 11, 2019 is changed to read **09:30 a.m., local time, February 28, 2019**.
- Bids submitted by firms outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country by February 11, 2019 is change to read **February 28, 2019** and mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply to P.O. Box 510008, C.K., Saipan, MP 96950 and the bid documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than February 20, 2019 is changed to read **no later than March 11, 2019**.
- Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 09:30 a.m., local time, February 22, 2019 is changed to read **09:30 a.m., local time, March 12, 2019**. However, if no Notice of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 09:30 a.m., local time, February 11, 2019 is changed to read **09:30 a.m., local time, February 28, 2019**.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 and 70-30.3-730 prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks, and Contingent Fees shall apply.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids or portions thereof, and waive any immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

/S/ MANNY PANGELINAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR OF P&S

End of Addendum No.1

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-012

ISLAND WIDE WATER METER INSTALLATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of installing new service saddles, corporation stops, PVC service lines from the CUC water main to the meter, replacing defective water meters, installing new service laterals and new water meters, properly sizing existing service lines, installing a water meter on existing CUC service lines without a meter, relocating existing CUC water meters from private property to public easement, reconfiguring the orientation of water meters to easily identify customers, removing existing manifold systems, and as required, installing new service lines from the meter to the house plumbing. It may also be required to connect existing service lines to a new meter and/or house piping.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 6, 2019,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

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OAG Consumer Division: Rent hikes still illegal

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Any rent increases that were enforced since Super Typhoon Yutu hit the Commonwealth in October 2018 are considered illegal and may be subject to possible legal action, according to the Office of the Attorney General last Tuesday.

Consumer counsel Michele Harris told the Rotary Club of Saipan at their meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan that any price increases for necessities such as rent and food are considered illegal since Gov. Ralph DLG Torres declared a price freeze in the wake of the super typhoon.

A price freeze can only be declared by the CNMI governor after a state of disaster has been declared. It effectively "freezes" any form of price increases—to include consumables such as food and includes rent—during a state of disaster and is renewed every month.



ERWIN ENCINARES

Attorney General's Office consumer counsel Michele Harris delivering her presentation Tuesday during the Saipan Rotary Club meeting at Hyatt.

Any act against this—increasing prices of an item much higher than what is considered reasonable or fair—is called price gouging.

According to Harris, anyone or any entity found guilty of price gouging may face both civil and criminal penalties.

"On the criminal side… you can be looking at a felony with up to a $10,000 fine and possibly a year in [prison]," she said, adding that charges are cumulative in nature, meaning the penalties for the charges add up.

Harris noted that her office has already taken on complaints of apartments increasing their rent during the declaration of a price freeze.

"We were actually able to get a rent increase reversed so that the tenants would not have to pay the rent increase," Harris said. "We are proactive out there in getting involved and investigating complaints as they come into the office and doing what we can," adding that, even through there is an enforcement arm, she still believes educating both consumers and the businesses are important.

"…The whole goal of the consumer division is to make sure we have a fair and safe consumer market for everyone," she said.

Torres, according to Harris, declared a price freeze last Jan. 24, 2019. It was first declared in October 2018 and has been renewed every 30 days since then.

Guam physician to hold ASPVD clinic at CHC

Dr. Jeffery Shay, a highly experienced interventional radiologist, will be conducting a clinic at the Commonwealth Health Center next Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019.

Shay will provide consultation for patients at risk for or diagnosed with ASPVD, or Atherosclerotic Peripheral Vascular Disease.

"We strongly encourage you to refer patients with claudication, poorly healing wounds/ulcerations, rest pain, and/or lower extremity discoloration for evaluation," said the Guam Radiology Consultants in a statement.

"We strongly urge you to send any patients who have undergone an amputation in the past to determine if measures are needed to prevent additional amputation.

"Likewise, patients who are already scheduled for amputation can almost always benefit from treatment before or soon after surgery by increasing flow to the amputation site, allowing for improved healing and prevention of future amputations. An appropriate work-up and, if needed, endovascular therapy will lead to a decrease in repeat amputations.

"We want to help as many patients as possible. All referrals are accepted. No patients will be turned away," the statement added. Send your inquiries and referrals to cnmi@guamradiology.com or fax to (671) 647-4600. Sheila Baisa, GRC's patient care coordinator, will assist with referrals.

The clinic will be located on the second floor of CHC, radiology department. Clinic hours are 9am to 4:30pm. Shay can be contacted any time at (671) 649-1001 if you have any questions regarding your patients who may benefit from IR consultation and care. Most insurances accepted. ***(PR)***

Marianas Working Group discusses food security

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Members of the Marianas Working Group recently met in Guam and talked of matters that affect the region.

House Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee chair Rep. Luis Joh DLG Castro (R-Saipan) said the meeting covered different issues in education, public safety, health care, and food security

"There's a whole lot of topics and it encompasses a lot of issues from both jurisdictions that would affect us a whole," said Castro, who added that their discussions with their Guam counterparts would continue.

Castro said food security is a huge issue for both U.S. territories. "One of the things that we've been talking about seems to be a topic that our counterparts down in Guam seem to bring up a lot is food security and having a way of providing sustainable resources for our communities…in times of disasters when there's shortage of sustenance."

Super Typhoon Yutu caused significant damage to crops including fruit trees being uprooted. Supplies of some locally-grown vegetables became scarce for a few weeks, but normalized as the islands began to recover from the devastation.

Saipan Tribune tried to get information and other statistics on the damage and other losses in local crops but representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Guam has yet to respond as of press time.

Castro added that there was also a call for more open dialogue within both legislatures of the CNMI and Guam.

"Sen. Will Castro and us at the Legislature have been working hard in addressing these issues through collaboration and continued dialogue. It is our hope [to] see some fruitful results that would benefit the CNMI and Guam."

Castro said that Castro, the minority leader in the 35th Guam Legislature, wants continued talks. "We're going to hold continued dialogues on matters pertaining to [MWG] as well as other business that we can put together with our Guam counterparts."

The group initially met on Saipan after the memorandum of agreement signing in December 2017 at the Saipan World Resort to create the group.

Torres signs four bills into law

On Monday, Feb. 18, 2019, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the following bills into law:

■ House Bill 20-86, HD1, which establishes the CNMI Product Seal Act of 2017. The bill becomes Public Law 20-89.

■ House Bill 20-188, HD1, which clarifies laws relating to non-payable traffic offenses. The bill becomes Public Law 20-90.

■ House Bill 20-13, which designates and establishes Susupe Lake and its surrounding wetland as Susupe Lake Wildlife Park. The bill becomes Public Law 20-91.

■ Senate Bill 20-106, SD1, HD1, which establishes a Northern Marianas Technical Institute as a government entity. The bill becomes Public Law 20-92. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 21, 2000

Q1 govt revenues up 10 pct.

Fueled by slight improvements in visitor arrival figures and the continued growth of the apparel manufacturing industry, government revenues increased by 10 percent from $52.241 million in fiscal year 1999 to $58.056 million this year. Growth in this year's first quarter government revenues resulted to a landmark reduction in outstanding budget deficit by $10 million, according to a report from the office of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. The report said Capitol Hill intends to complement the stable growth of the local economy with the continued implementation of policies aimed at eliminating unwanted government spending.

Tourist arrivals post flat growth in January

The Marianas Visitors Authority reported a flat growth in visitor arrivals for the month of January compared to the same month of the previous year as visitor arrivals reached 43,891. Arrivals from Japan, the island's main source of tourists, dipped five percent compared to January 1999. MVA attributes this drop the nonarrival of ships from Japan as 1,679 tourists came in via ship from Japan last year. The tourism office also blamed the termination of direct flights from Nagoya and Osaka which helped pull the market down further. MVA's visitor arrivals record in December also showed that the Japanese market remained at a standstill.

February 21, 2005

MVA mulls renewing ad contract with Japan firm

Concerned about low arrivals from the Japan market, the Marianas Visitors Authority is reconsidering the termination of its advertising contract with the Japanese company Atatsu DK Inc. MVA's initial contract with Atatsu DK, which cost $921,000 and took effect on Feb. 1, 2004, expired on Dec. 31, 2004. The tourism office was not able to renew the agreement after the money supposedly for the advertising company was shifted to the opening of the China market as well as MVA's participation in a travel fair sponsored by the Japan Association of Travel Agents. MVA managing director Vicky I. Benavente reported that only about $450,000 of the Atatsu DK funds remains available. The board instructed MVA management to negotiate a deal with Atatsu DK and get the company to continue providing advertising services within MVA's limited funding.

Whale's bones to be used for display

The body of a 35-foot whale that got stranded on a beach on Tinian was gutted Sunday as part of efforts to recover its bones, so it could later be reconstructed for display at the proposed Marine/Environmental Sciences and Mariculture Center on Saipan. Some 16 students from the Northern Marianas College and their instructors, John Furey and Barry Wonenberg, traveled from Saipan to Tinian on Feb. 20 to begin the process of recovering the stranded whale's bones. The whale was discovered sometime early last week on Masalog Beach on Tinian. It is a 35-foot male Bryde's Whale, also called a Tropical Whale.

February 21, 2006

CUC sees $33M shortfall

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is seeing a deficit of $32.88 million by the end of fiscal year 2006. A summary of CUC's revenues and expenses shows that the utility is expecting to collect a total of $83.4 million in operating revenues between October 2005 and September 2006. However, the purchase of power generation fuel alone is expected to eat up almost 90 percent of the utility's projected revenues. CUC is projecting fuel costs to reach $74.4 million in FY 2006. This represents a 26-percent increase compared with the $58.89 million that CUC paid for fuel in FY 2005.

Argosy offers business degree program

Argosy University is launching its School of Business on Saipan, offering a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree beginning May this year. Lisa Parker, Argosy University School of Business Interim Program Manager, said this offering is in response to the local community's interest in the program. "We've been speaking with individuals and business professionals. With the information and based on our own research, it's positive.

NMI, Guam urged to prepare for bad weather this weekend

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard is urging the public to prepare for the onset of heavy weather early Friday in Guam and the CNMI.

Tropical Storm Wutip—formerly Tropical Depression 02W—is expected to generate sustained winds approaching 35 knots (40 mph) in vicinity of Guam and the Commonwealth.

Mariners and beachgoers should monitor the progress and strength of the storm through newspapers, the internet, local television, radio stations and official accounts on social media. Boaters can monitor the progress of the storm on VHF channel 16. Advisories and warnings are also broadcasted on VHF channel 16.

The Coast Guard is working closely with federal and local first responder agencies. Once the storm begins to impact the islands, emergency responders may not be able to assist those in danger. The public is urged to heed all orders and warnings. Mariners should seek safe harbor and shelter.

Additionally, mariners should secure their boats and boating equipment. Owners of large boats are urged to move their vessels to protected marinas where they will be less likely to break free of their moorings or to be otherwise damaged. Smaller boats should be pulled from the water and stored in a place that is not prone to flooding and is protected for high winds. Regardless of location, all loose items aboard vessels should be secured or removed.

Visitors to Guam should heed all warnings from lifeguards and public health and safety officials. Although weather conditions may appear favorable, rip tides and high surf may impact beaches far in advance of the actual storm. Even the best swimmers can fall victim to strong storm-generated waves and currents. Swimmers are urged to stay clear of beaches until local officials say the water is safe. Near-shore waters may become contaminated due to runoff up to several days following a storm. ***(PR)***

Busy holiday weekend for USCG in the Pacific

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard responded to several cases in Hawaii, American Samoa, and Guam over Presidents Day weekend.

The cases range from a passenger-ferry taking on water in American Samoa to vessels in distress in Hawaii and Guam and beachgoers swept out to sea off Maui.

The Coast Guard handles around 900 cases annually in the region.

"Our crews are always ready to respond to any cases that may emerge," said Lt. j.g. Lydia Dillworth, a Sector Honolulu command duty officer. "It is why they train so hard. The ocean is at the best of times an unpredictable place, and we recommend waterway users check their local environmental conditions when making their plans, in Hawaii that is http://hawaiibeachsafety.com."

At 1:30pm, Saturday, Sector Honolulu watchstanders learned the 145-foot passenger-ferry *Sili* was taking on water at the main pier in Pago Pago, American Samoa. Marine Safety Division American Samoa personnel responded alongside local authorities and members of SOLAR, an oil spill response organization.

A salvage dive team located a two-inch diameter hole on the hull of the vessel and applied a temporary patch. The ship will remain out of service until it is dry-docked and permanent repairs effected. At the end of March, dry-dock facilities will be available. MSD American Samoa personnel will continue to monitor and advise.

At 1:52pm, Sunday, the Honolulu Fire department reported a capsized 13-foot pleasure-craft two miles off Ka'ena Point with two people aboard to Sector Honolulu watchstanders who issued an Urgent Maritime Information Broadcast and launched an Air Station Barbers Point MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew in response.

An Ocean Safety Jetski operator and good Samaritan arrived on scene and recovered the two mariners. The vessel was towed back to Waianae small boat harbor. There were no reports of injuries from the incident.

Later that day, at 4:14pm, Sector Honolulu watchstanders received notification from Coast Guard Station Maui of four beachgoers swept out to sea near Red Sand Beach Park, Hana, and were 1,000 yards off the shore. Reportedly, one of the beachgoers held on to a yellow buoy. Two others shared a boogie board, and the fourth person was unresponsive in the water.

Sector Honolulu watchstanders issued an Urgent Maritime Information Broadcast and launched another Dolphin crew to assist. Maui County Fire Department also sent a helicopter crew and ground responders. The Maui County first responders arrived first and recovered all four beachgoers and administered CPR to the unresponsive person until transferred to emergency medical personnel. Coast Guard crews were stood down.

Saturday evening, at 8:48pm, Sector Guam watchstanders issued an Urgent Maritime Information Broadcast and placed Station Apra Harbor on standby following a report from the Guam Fire Dispatch of an incident aboard an 18-foot sports fishing boat with three boaters aboard. Their vessel was having engine difficulties and was dead in the water.

At 8:56pm, the owner of the pleasure craft *Liquid Soul* notified the watchstanders the disabled vessel was in sight, and he would remain on scene in case they needed assistance until Guam Fire Rescue arrived. GFR III response crews arrived on scene and were able to tow the vessel back to Agat Marina safely.

At 10:35pm Saturday Sector Honolulu watchstanders received a report of a red flare near the Capt. Cook Monument on Hawaii Island. A Dolphin crew launched to respond, and there were no reports of distress or military operations in the area. Hawaii Fire Department personnel visited beaches in the area with no follow-up leads. An Air Station HC-130 Hercules airplane crew conducted a first light search Sunday with no sightings, and the case closed.

Monday evening the Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu received a request for assistance from MCC *Korea* reporting a missing crewmember from the Korean-flagged 162-foot fishing vessel *Oryong No. 721* located 483 statute miles west of Jarvis Island, 1,680 miles southwest of Honolulu. The 25-year-old Indonesian crewman was last seen smoking on the fantail at 4:45pm Monday in a black shirt and neon green running pants. He was confirmed missing an hour later. JRCC watchstanders issued a SafetyNet broadcast alerting vessels in the area to the situation and, working through AMVER, identified other ships to assist in the search. They also provided search plans to the *Oryong* crew based on available information. Due to distance and limited aviation support a Coast Guard HC-130 would have only one hour of on-scene search time per 7 - 8 hours of transit, severely limiting its value. The case is ongoing.

Also, Coast Guard Sector Honolulu investigators received reports of two injuries aboard the *Pride of America* Saturday. A crewmember sustained a hand injury while cleaning equipment aboard the vessel and a passenger sustained minor injuries in a fall on a stairwell. Both people received treatment aboard the ship. Such events are not uncommon, but under the Code of Federal Regulations must be reported to the Coast Guard and investigated.

All times and dates listed in this release are in Hawaii Standard time. ***(USCG)***

US delegation meets with Palau president Remengesau



Members of the U.S. delegation meet with Palauan President Tommy Remengesau Jr. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The principals of the U.S. delegation arrive in Palau and are met by U.S. Ambassador to Palau Amy Hyatt. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PALAU—A U.S. delegation from Washington, D.C. led by Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, who are visiting Palau and other areas in the Pacific, met yesterday with Palauan President Tommy Remengesau Jr.

Last Wednesday, the delegation was in Chuuk, Micronesia, where they joined in the 75th anniversary commemoration of Operation Hailstone, an important U.S. military action during the World War II battle in the Pacific.

In Palau, Domenech and the members of the U.S. delegation met with Remengesau to discuss mutual issues of interest to the U.S. and Palau. The delegation was also briefed on Remengesau's plans to host the Our Ocean Conference in Palau in 2020.

"Interior is proud of the role that we play in support of the overall U.S. relationship with the people of Palau," said Domenech. "Our relationship is enduring. We have come to Palau today to demonstrate our commitment and continued interest in Palau's success going forward. …More immediately, we look forward to playing a part with our other federal partners in the U.S.-Palau economic consultations as called for under the Palau Compact Review."

Domenech is joined in this trip by Gen. CQ Brown, Jr., U.S. Air Force, commander, Pacific Air Forces; Indo-Pacific Command; Nick Dean, director, East Asia Pacific Bureau, State Department; Alexander Gray, director for Oceania, National Security Council; and Nikolao Pula, director, Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior.

From Palau, the delegation will continue to Kwajalein in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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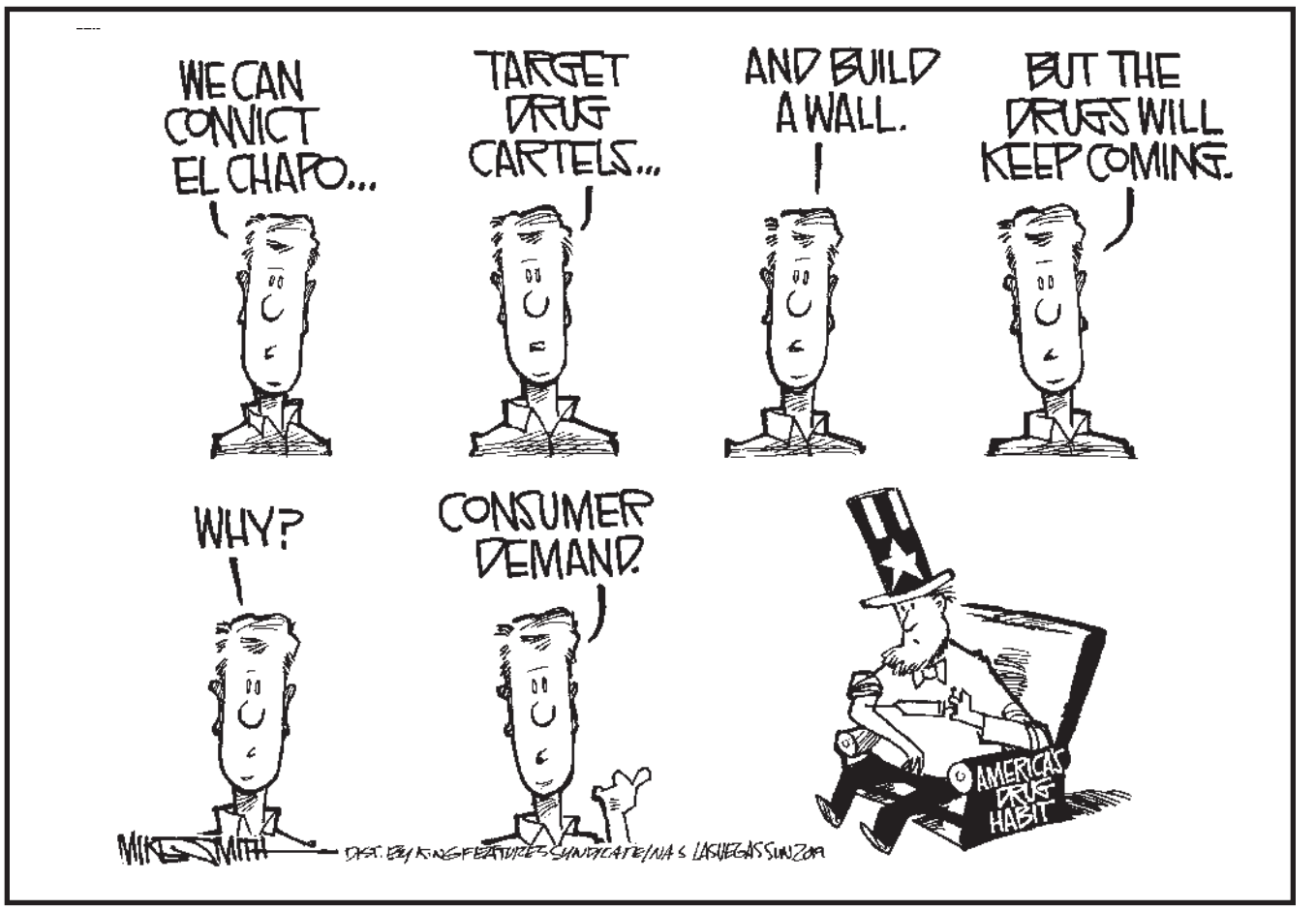
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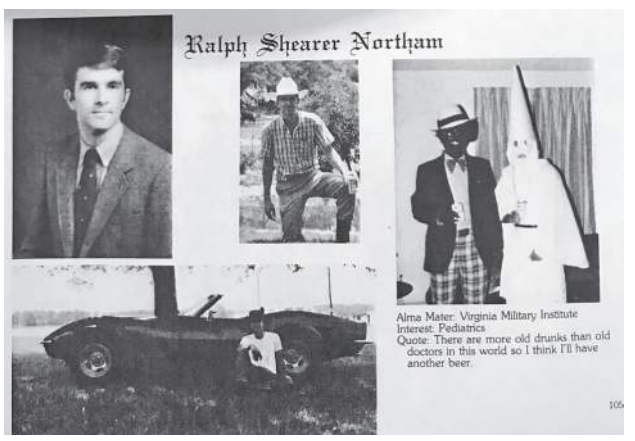


EDITORIAL

What is the big deal about blackface? Plenty

As he was dying of AIDS-related pneumonia, the tennis great Arthur Ashe answered a reporter's question about the greatest burden he had faced in life. The reporter might have expected Ashe to cite his diminishing health. Instead, Ashe, who grew up in segregated Richmond, Va., said "being black is the greatest burden I've had to bear."

Ashe's answer is as relevant now as it was then, an open window into this nation's persistent, unrequited struggle with race. By now we all know the news about Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam and Attorney General Mark Herring, both white Democrats. Herring has admitted wearing blackface as a Halloween costume in the 1980s. Northam weirdly suggested he might have done the same before retracting that admission. Meanwhile, Virginia Senate majority leader Tommy Norment, a Republican, edited a 1968 college yearbook filled with blackface photos.



A photo from Gov. Ralph Northam's medical school yearbook shows two men, one in blackface and one in a Ku Klux Klan robe and hood, on the same page as the governor. A half-page from the 1984 Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook, photographed by The Virginian-Pilot on Friday, Feb. 1, 2019.

EASTERN VIRGINIA MEDICAL SCHOOL/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT/TNS

Such incidents should not be minimized as youthful mistakes, but seen as racially insensitive moments that expose this nation's inability to confront and exorcise its demons. Days before Virginia's blackface controversy exploded as a national disgrace, a Pew Research Center survey found that white adults are about twice as likely as black adults to say the use of blackface as part of a Halloween costume can be acceptable—39 percent to 19 percent. And about one-in-three Americans surveyed say blackface is always or sometimes acceptable.

That's disheartening and remarkably tone-deaf. The color of one's skin is personal and defining, the negative impacts of which African-Americans have confronted for decades. Unjust laws in this country revolved for most of our history around skin color, mandating where African-Americans could eat, shop, travel, work or live. Skin color was not a joking matter. It determined life or death, and was the measuring stick that denied opportunities. And that's why blackface is not benign.

Blackface was a humiliating, theatrical device used mostly by non-black performers to caricature a black person for the

See BLACKFACE on Next Page

The little rover that could

By USHA LEE MCFARLING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Opportunity, NASA's longest-living robotic Mars explorer, was declared dead last week. The tributes, poignant cartoons, emotional tweets and even love songs keep pouring in. I'm feeling surprisingly sad as well. I covered the building and launch of Opportunity, and its twin rover Spirit, for the *Los Angeles Times* 15 years ago, and I feel like I've lost a close friend.

Opportunity is Southern California's rover. It was built here, at the Jet Propulsion Lab, under a huge amount of pressure. It's always very hard to get a spacecraft to Mars, and in 2003, NASA was reeling from a series of high-profile failures. As the rovers were being built, the space shuttle Columbia crashed, killing seven astronauts—and placing even more pressure on the $800-million rover mission to succeed.

It was incredible to see the care engineers took as they handcrafted Opportunity and Spirit, wearing surgical gear in clean rooms as they attached cables and tested wheels, careful not to let a stray eyelash or even a flake of dandruff fall onto the delicate components. Test versions of the rovers, like toddlers, explored sandboxes at JPL. While the rovers were being finished, dozens of planetary scientists met at an Arcadia hotel and argued heatedly over where the rovers should land—the geologically interesting places scientists wanted to explore, with their deep canyons and giant rocks, or the safer, flatter places the landing engineers favored. They finally settled on Meridiani Planum as a landing spot for Opportunity, a flat plain with lots of intriguing crystals that might have formed in water.

Opportunity's launch, in July 2003 after three years of construction and a delicate trip to Cape Canaveral, was fraught. But it went off without a hitch. It was during the landing when scientists and engineers really got nervous. Their plan was for the rovers to streak through the Martian atmosphere at 12,000 miles per hour, use their heat shields to slow down, deploy parachutes and then bounce down onto the to surface of Mars protected only by giant airbags—it seemed like something an imaginative third-grader might invent. Scientists referred to the landing as "six minutes of terror." It seemed impossible to me that the rovers could survive. But they did. When they landed, grown men and women in the control room cried.

Not only did the rovers survive, they lasted far longer than even the most optimistic engineers had predicted. Spirit's last communication arrived from Mars in 2010, after it got caught in a sand trap and froze. It was only built to last 90 days, but lasted six years. Opportunity, astonishingly, lasted 15 years, succumbing only after a planet-wide dust storm likely covered its solar panels or gummed up its electronics.

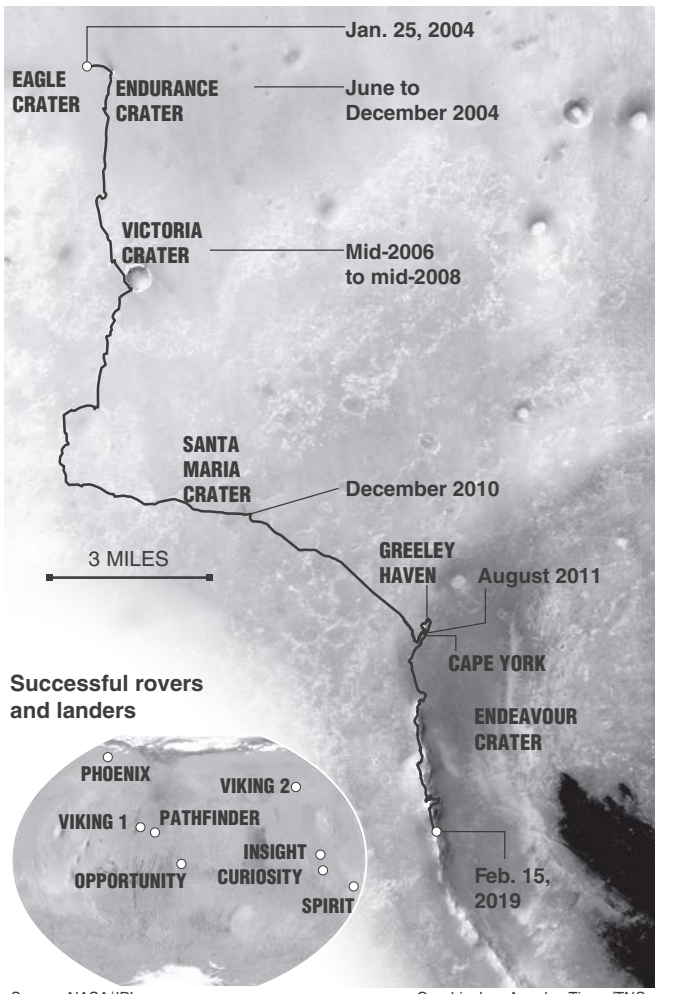
Both robot geologists thrilled scientists by finding evidence that Mars was indeed warmer and wetter in the past and may have supported the conditions necessary for microbial life to exist. Finally, it was Opportunity that kept going and going, traveling 28 miles across the rough, dusty surface of Mars despite a balky wheel and sending back gorgeous photos to the end.

It's sad to lose the rover. But we can still focus on what Opportunity represented. The rover, not human in the least, nevertheless embodied the best of humanity: people working together, taking audacious chances, exploring and never giving up. Rest well, little rover. You've earned it.

Usha Lee McFarling, a former science writer at the Los Angeles Times, *won a Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism in 2007.*

Opportunity's travels

The rover has documented that Mars was once warmer and wetter than it is today. Below are some of the landmarks it has encountered since January 2004:



Source: NASA/JPL Graphic: Los Angeles Times/TNS

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What would Lincoln do?



By DAVID BLANKENHORN
Los Angeles Times

David Blankenhorn is president of Better Angels, an organization bringing together red and blue Americans.

Abraham Lincoln, who was born 210 years ago this month, was president during an era even more rancorous and polarized than our own. Yet he managed to navigate it—not in a way that pleased everyone or made him popular, but rather by keeping the good of the country always in his sights. His path has lessons for today's leaders.

Lincoln's political philosophy consisted of only a few ideas, and he believed that America itself was based on these ideas. He said in 1861 that he had "never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence." In the same speech, he articulated what he believed to be the core promises of that document: that "liberty" was the American birthright and that in America and ultimately in the world "all should have an equal chance."

He spoke of democracy the way the poet Walt Whitman did, as both our nation's form of government and its special reason for existing.

As is the case today, many of Lincoln's contemporaries were hyper-partisan, treating politics as a constant contest between good and evil. Lincoln believed differently. As he put it in an 1848 speech, in politics "there are few things wholly evil or wholly good," which means that "governmental policy" must typically be "an inseparable compound of the two." As a result, even in his darkest moments, he looked for good in the ideas of those who disagreed with him, and he expected them to do the same.

This way of thinking meant that Lincoln never treated opponents as enemies. Even during the Civil War, he did not demonize Southerners or the South. He did not view those fighting on the other side as evil.

Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America, was Lincoln's opposite in many ways, including in temperament. In 1861 he said of Northerners: "Our people now look with contemptuous astonishment on those with whom they had been so recently associated." Lincoln did not think or talk that way. Nor did he respond in kind to personal attacks, even as they rained down on him.

In 1865, when Lincoln delivered his second inaugural address, the Civil War was nearing an end, and he was already thinking about how "to bind up the nation's wounds." In that same address, when he urged "malice toward none," he meant it.

Throughout his political career, Lincoln rejected dogmatism, embraced pragmatism, and sought compromise, something that often didn't sit well with those he considered his allies.

Lincoln was often accused of being noncommittal, of seeming to want things both ways. He would infuriate colleagues by telling them, "My policy is to have no policy." He would change his mind, vacillate, and propose half-measures that displeased everyone. Many viewed him as weak.

Within his own party, the "Radical Republicans," those most fervently opposed to slavery, never trusted him. Lincoln, in turn, considered them unreasonable zealots. He complained to his secretary that they were "utterly lawless" and "the unhandiest devils in the world to deal with." But he also could admire their idealism and recognize their goodness, explaining to his secretary that "after all, their faces are set Zionwards."

Lincoln chose humor over vitriol and understanding over judgment. He liked making suggestions more than issuing orders. A strong, confident man, but one who also experienced dark depression, Lincoln was mild-mannered. His capacity for empathy was striking to those around him.

Lincoln had important flaws, but was providentially suited to his times. In a time of disunity, he tried to remind Americans what united them. Amid conflict, he sought conciliation. Amid anger, he advocated "charity for all." Amid despair, he summoned "the better angels of our nature."

On his birthday, today's leaders would do well to contemplate his wisdom.

The Green New Deal is not a policy. It's a manifesto



By KARL W. SMITH
Bloomberg News

Karl W. Smith is a senior fellow at the Niskanen Center and founder of the blog Modeled Behavior.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal arrived last week to an uneven reception. Six contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination endorsed it. Some commentators on the left gushed over it. More on the right and even center-left condemned it. Almost all of them, however, are misunderstanding it.

The Green New Deal is best seen not as a policy proposal but as a political manifesto. It seeks to define what it means to be a progressive in the Trump era. In so doing it draws a clear distinction with centrist Democrats—exactly what progressives need to do in order to take a leading role within the party.

That's why the endorsement of the Green New Deal by the presidential hopefuls is particularly significant. They see the progressive shift coming, and they have chosen to embrace it. This strategy makes a lot of sense: The entire country is moving left, and the change will remake both political parties.

This leftward move is almost preordained by demographics. Each generation, from the Silent Generation (born from the Depression through World War II) to the Millennials (born from the early 1980s to the mid-'90s) has more liberals and fewer conservatives than the one that came before it. Centrists are equally represented across generations.

Despite this, however, the dominance of the Baby Boom generation has held the parties relatively static since the late the 1990s. There has been some movement leftward, particularly on social issues, but overall not nearly as much as the generation gaps would have suggested. As a result, there is enormous pressure for change. That pressure was harnessed by progressive candidates in 2018 and now has an outlet: the Green New Deal.

What does this new political force look like? First of all, it is proudly pro-government. Democrats have gotten used to couching their proposals in heavily technocratic language. The idea was to sound responsible and sensible, especially compared to the wide-eyed free-market fantasies proposed by Republicans. So Democratic proposals were developed by economists at prestigious universities, carefully tweaked in focus groups to appeal to the broadest possible coalition, and certified as deficit-neutral by the Congressional Budget Office.

The Green New Deal is none of those things. Progressives are uninterested in such compromises and will not be limited by such requirements. In fact, the Green New Deal's supporting documents suggest that the resources of all the billionaires and private companies in America are inadequate to the task facing the nation.

It is government and government alone that is capable of the sweeping reforms necessary to battle climate change. Government can pay for whatever costs are incurred in the process, because it has the power to print money if needed.

And the Green New Deal concerns more than just the environment. It is also about equity and social justice. It would guarantee all Americans a job, free college, health care, affordable housing and, most telling of all, economic security even if they are "unwilling to work."

This last point has been roundly mocked, and indeed the FAQ that included it seems to have been removed from the internet. (Ocasio-Cortez's chief of staff later said it was an unfinished draft, but it was posted on her website.) At any rate, the idea is not new; in fact it has a storied history in American politics.

In 1969, President Richard Nixon proposed the Family Assistance Plan, which guaranteed Americans a basic income but also required the able-bodied to work. More liberal members of Congress opposed the work requirement, and in 1972 presidential candidate George McGovern proposed the so-called "demogrant," which would have offered a family of four the equivalent $24,000 annually in today's dollars—unconditionally.

The backlash against McGovern's idea was intense, and it was abandoned. With the rise of the conservative movement over the next few decades, sentiment shifted from expanding entitlements toward curtailing or eliminating them.

The Green New Deal is a sign that sentiments are shifting yet again—toward entitlement expansion. It will be years, of course, before progressives have the political power to make anything close to these proposals a reality. But their influence is only going to grow. For the Democratic Party and perhaps the nation as a whole, the era of small government is ending.

BLACKFACE

From Page 10

entertainment of white audiences. It was featured prominently in early animated cartoons, masks, advertising, fashion and film, reinforcing a controlling narrative that African-Americans are buffoons and racially inferior. And such attitudes justified outrageous abuses.

As NAACP president Derrick Johnson recently wrote in response to the Virginia incidents, this is "the consequence of our nation's collective unwillingness to recognize that 400 years of dehumanizing language and imagery have a cultural impact that expresses itself through explicit and implicit bias." And, that bias extends beyond blackface to a plethora of other demonizing code words and racial dog whistles that pollute modern politics.

When someone adopts blackface as a costume, the act is blatantly disrespectful and mocking. The passage of time doesn't make blackface acceptable, nor does the defense that no malice was intended. Racial parodies are not amusing. Suggesting that blackface is acceptable in some forms simply widens the nation's racial chasm.

As a nation, we've had many so-called conversations about race, most of which have been monologues. But we must listen and learn, put aside preconceptions, embrace empathy and lower defenses that minimize the pain of others. Let's start by agreeing that blackface and the attitudes it spawns have no place in a society that so urgently needs civility and respectful encounters.

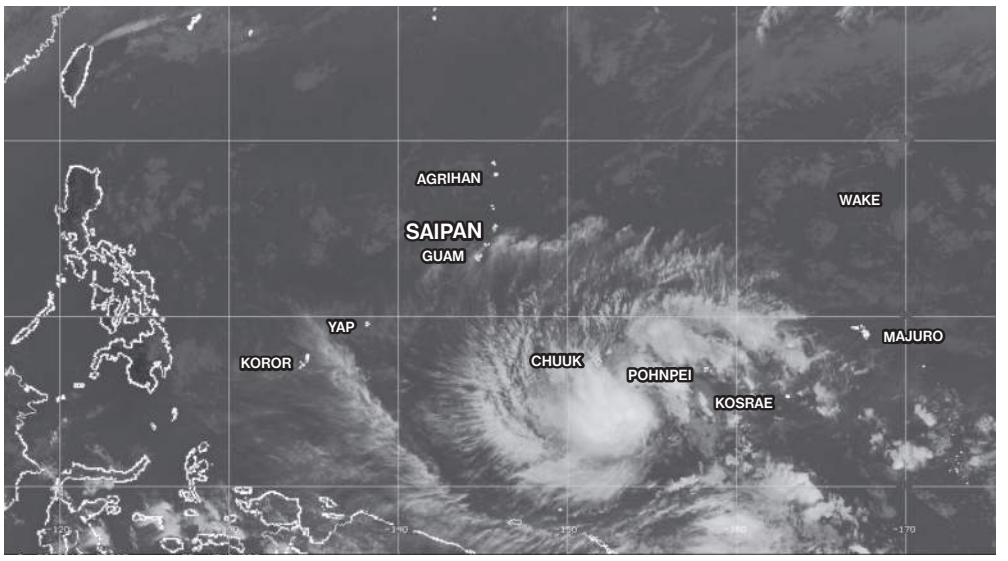
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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Windy. Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 30 mph.	Damaging winds possible. Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Damaging winds possible. Mostly cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Damaging winds possible. Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
87° 75°	86° 75°	87° 76°	86° 75°	86° 75°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:42 AM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast. Satellite and radar imagery show only a few clouds and showers over the local area. Relatively dry weather will prevail through mid-week as model 700 mb relative humidity will be well below 50 percent until Friday. A circulation south of Kosrae this morning will move towards the Marianas. It is predicted to be near the local area by next weekend which will increase the chances for showers and thunderstorms. Little change in wind speed expected for until next week as they will range between 15 to 25 mph. These winds are the result the pressure gradient between high pressure to the north of the Marianas and lower pressure to the south. The circulation mentioned above will deepen the pressure gradient and so even windier conditions are expected this coming weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Showers	84° / 76°
Palau	Cloudy	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Majuro	Cloudy	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	73° / 66°
Beijing	Cloudy	55° / 28°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 66°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 66°
London	Sunny	57° / 43°
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	56° / 40°
Manila	Sunny	90° / 72°
Melbourne	Sunny	73° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 74°
New York	Partly Cloudy	56° / 35°
Osaka	Cloudy	54° / 45°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 37°
Busan	Showers	54° / 43°
Rome	Sunny	63° / 41°
Salem	Thunderstorm	75° / 61°
San Francisco	Sunny	55° / 40°
Seoul	Cloudy	46° / 28°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 45°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	57° / 38°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:55 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.46
9:28 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.11
3:24 PM	LOW TIDE	0.70
8:46 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.10

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Monday	6:36 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:51 AM	8:05 PM
Friday	-	8:39 AM	9:04 PM
Saturday	-	9:25 AM	10:01 PM
Sunday	-	10:09 AM	10:57 PM
Monday	-	10:54 AM	11:52 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Americans shocked by impact of new tax law

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP PERSONAL FINANCE WRITER

Wait, I owe the IRS?

The first tax filing season under the new federal tax law is proving to be surprising, confusing—and occasionally frightening—for some Americans, especially those accustomed to getting money back from the government.

Take Andy Kraft and Amy Elias of Portland, Oregon. The couple had grown comfortable getting a small refund each year, a few hundred dollars or more. Then they found out they owe $10,160 this year.

"I will never forget the moment, I thought 'We look good' and then we added in the next W-2 and my jaw hit the floor," Kraft said. "There was no way I wanted to believe that what I was looking at was accurate."

President Trump promised a reduction in taxes with the new law. And by most measures, the majority of Americans will see one. The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center projected the tax law would reduce individual income taxes by about $1,260 on average, although it benefits higher earners more.



AP
Husband and wife Andy Kraft and Amy Elias, of Portland, Ore., pose with their 2018 tax paperwork in their Portland home on Monday, Feb. 18, 2019.

So not everyone will see a massive tax bill or a drop in their refund. Some people already saw the benefit in the form of bigger paychecks. That's because the law forced employers to change what they withheld. But the system is far from perfect, and many workers didn't have enough in taxes set aside. Now, the IRS wants that money.

In addition, the law also eliminated personal exemptions, increased child credits, limited popular deductions and generally upended many familiar practices that determine what happens at tax time. That has taxpayers feeling a bit unmoored.

"We were very comfortable with our tax law, it had basically been there since 1986, suddenly all these things that were very important to people changed ... it's all different," said Howard Gleckman, a senior fellow at the Tax Policy Center.

Kraft and Elias are able to pay their tax bill but he's still stunned. He even tried to reverse-engineer things to figure out where they went wrong, diving into page after page of IRS rules. He painstakingly put together all the numbers. The couuple ultimately asked a CPA to verify the figures they were seeing on TurboTax. Crushingly, they were correct.

Their total tax was up slightly—by about $300 because of changes to their financial picture. Their effective tax rate was lower, but they still owed the government.

"I feel like I have reached a stage of grief of acceptance," he said. "In a twisted way I should have been paying this all year and now I just have to pay it in one lump sum."

A number of experts such as Gleckman are urging taxpayers to obsess less about their refund or what they owe when measuring the effect of the new tax law. These are just a sliver of your tax picture.

But the truth is, many Americans have come to rely on refunds. About three-quarters of U.S. taxpayers typically get one and they had averaged around $2,800. For some low-income households it is the biggest cash infusion of the year.

The IRS reported Thursday that the average tax refund as of the second week of filing season was $1,949, down 8.7 percent from the year earlier. The total number of refunds is down 16 percent.

US automakers to Trump: Don't slap tariffs on imported cars

DETROIT (AP)—America's auto industry is bracing for a potential escalation in President Donald Trump's tariff war with the world, one that could weaken the global auto industry and economy, inflate car prices and trigger a backlash in Congress.

Late Sunday, the Commerce Department sent the White House a report on the results of an investigation Trump had ordered of whether imported vehicles and parts pose a threat to U.S. national security. Commerce hasn't made its recommendations public, and the White House has so far declined to comment. If Commerce did find that auto imports imperil national security, Trump would have 90 days to decide whether to impose those import taxes.

Trump has repeatedly invoked his duty as president to safeguard national security in justifying previous rounds of tariffs. An obscure provision in trade law authorizes a president to impose unlimited tariffs on particular imports if his Commerce Department concludes that those imports threaten America's national security.

Whatever Commerce has concluded in this case, Trump has made clear his enthusiasm for tariffs in general and for auto tariffs in particular. Some analysts say they think Commerce has likely endorsed the tariffs, not least because the president has conveyed his preference for them.

Among Commerce's recommendations "will certainly be tariffs because, hey, he's a Tariff Man," said William Reinsch, a former U.S. trade official and now a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, referring to a nickname that Trump gave himself.

Industry officials took part in a conference call Tuesday to discuss the possible steps Trump could take. They include tariffs of up to 25 percent on imported parts only; on assembled vehicles only; or on both vehicles and parts—including those from Mexico and Canada. The last option would be an especially unusual one given that the United States, Mexico and Canada reached a new North American trade deal late last year, and the legislatures of all three nations must still ratify it.

In public hearings last year, the idea of imposing import taxes on autos drew almost no support. Even U.S. automakers, which ostensibly would benefit from a tax on their foreign competitors, opposed the potential tariffs. Among other concerns, the automakers worry about retaliatory tariffs that the affected nations would impose on U.S. vehicles. Many U.S. automakers also depend on imported parts that could be subject to Trump's tariffs and could become more expensive.

Trump wants California to pay back billions for bullet train

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The Trump administration said Tuesday that it plans to cancel $929 million awarded to California's high-speed rail project and wants the state to return an additional $2.5 billion that it has already spent.

The U.S. Department of Transportation announcement follows through on President Donald Trump's threats to claw back $3.5 billion that the federal government gave to California to build a bullet train between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Gov. Gavin Newsom vowed a fight to keep the money and said the move was in response to California again suing the administration, this time over Trump's emergency declaration to pay for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"This is clear political retribution by President Trump, and we won't sit idly by," Newsom said in a statement. "This is California's money, and we are going to fight for it."

It's the latest spat between the White House and California. Trump earlier in the day linked the emergency declaration lawsuit to the train, noting that California filed the challenge on behalf of 16 states.

"California, the state that has wasted billions of dollars on their out of control Fast Train, with no hope of completion, seems in charge!" the president tweeted.

The train project has faced repeated cost overruns and delays since California voters approved it in 2008. The Trump administration argued Tuesday that the state hasn't provided required matching dollars and can't complete certain construction work by a 2022 deadline.

Newsom declared in his first State of the State address last week that he planned to scale back the project and focus immediately on building 171 miles (275 kilometers) of track in central California. His office said he still plans to complete the full line, although he said the current plan would cost too much and take too long.

He's pledged to continue environmental work on the full line, which is required to keep the federal money.

Congress nearly a decade ago approved the $929 million that Trump wants to cancel. The state has not started spending that money. But it has already spent the extra $2.5 billion that Trump now wants back.

The U.S. Department of Transportation said it is "actively exploring every legal option" to get back the money.

The grant agreement between California and the federal government, signed in 2010, outlines several scenarios in which the federal government could take the money back. It can take the money back, for example, if the grantee fails to make "adequate progress" or "fails to complete the project or one of its tasks" or if the state doesn't meet its matching fund requirements.

If the federal government decides to take the money back, it doesn't have to wait for California to write a check. The agreement states the federal government could offset the money it would pay California for different transportation or other projects.

California hasn't yet fully matched the $2.5 billion in stimulus money. It's in the process of doing so now, using money from the 2008 bond passed by voters and revenue from the state's cap-and-trade program. It can't unlock the $929 million grant until it completes its match.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
25,891.32	2,779.76	7,486.77
+8.07	+4.16	+14.36
+.031%	+0.15%	+0.19%

EXCHANGE RATES
In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3956	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8482	Russian Ruble	65.7300
British Pound	0.7652	Indian Rupee	70.5407	Singapore Dollar	1.3517
Canadian Dollar	1.3194	Japanese Yen	110.8170	South Korean Won	1102.91
Chinese Yuan	6.6028	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0263	Swiss Franc	1.0013
Euro	0.8812	New Zealand Dollar	1.4553	Taiwan Dollar	30.2623
		Philippine Peso	51.1077	Thailand Baht	31.0165

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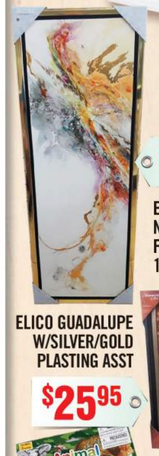
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Nation

Lawmakers seek probe of ICE force-feeding of immigrants

Nearly 50 Democratic lawmakers called for a watchdog investigation of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Tuesday after the agency confirmed it had been force-feeding immigrant detainees on a hunger strike.

Reporting by The Associated Press revealed late last month that nine Indian men who were refusing food at a Texas detention facility were being force-fed through nasal tubes against their will.

On Thursday, all force-feeding at the detention center near the El Paso airport abruptly stopped after a U.S. district judge said the government had to stop involuntarily feeding two of the detained immigrants.



This June 2018 file photo shows protesters walking along Montana Avenue outside the El Paso Processing Center, in El Paso, Texas. AP

The 49 lawmakers are calling for the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General to investigate on-site conditions of ICE facilities and the policies surrounding the involuntary force-feeding of immigrant detainees. Earlier this month, the Geneva-based United National human rights office said that the United States could be violating the U.N. Convention Against Torture.

"We implore you to exercise your oversight responsibilities to make improving conditions at immigration detention facilities a top priority for ICE and ensure the humane treatment of detainees in federal custody," said the letter spearheaded by Oregon Democratic Rep. Suzanne Bonamici and Texas Democratic Rep. Veronica Escobar, who toured the El Paso Processing Center and met with the men after the initial reports of the force-feeding. "These complaints reveal unequivocal abuses of power that violate the rights of detainees."

ICE declined to comment directly on the request for an investigation Tuesday but said the agency has "a strict zero-tolerance policy for any kind of abusive or inappropriate behavior in its facilities." The agency said that if allegations of inappropriate behavior surfaced, they would be investigated by DHS Office of the Inspector General and ICE's Office of Professional Responsibility.

"For their health and safety, ICE closely monitors the food and water intake of those detainees identified as being on a hunger strike," the agency said in a statement. "ICE does not retaliate in any way against hunger strikers."

The inspector general's office did not immediately return a call or email seeking comment.

Detained immigrants have sporadically staged hunger strikes around the country for years, protesting conditions they face while seeking asylum.

ICE said Tuesday 13 immigrants from Cuba, India, Mexico and Nigeria held in detention facilities nationwide were refusing food, but none were being force-fed. That included 10 detainees at the El Paso Processing Center, one at the Irwin County Detention Center in Georgia, one at the Krome Service Processing Center in Florida, and one at the Central Arizona Correctional Center.

One hunger striker in El Paso, an asylum seeker from the Indian state of Punjab, had previously described the process as involving being dragged from his cell three times a day and strapped down on a bed as a group of people poured liquid into tubes inserted into his nose.

Force-feeding, which began under court order earlier this year, had not previously been reported. Before it began in El Paso, advocates said they weren't aware it had happened before. ***(AP)***

Aurora gunman's family: 'We deeply apologize' for shootings

AURORA, Ill. (AP)—The family of the man who fatally shot five people at a suburban Chicago manufacturing warehouse is offering condolences to the victims' families, with one relative saying "we deeply apologize" for the killings.

Gary Martin , 45, died Friday in a shootout with police after he killed five co-workers and wounded five police officers at Henry Pratt Co. in Aurora, Illinois.

Martin's cousin, Jesseca Clemons, told The (Aurora) Beacon-News that she and her family "would like to send our deepest apologies to all the victims' families, friends and loved ones."

"No one in our family condones anyone's life being taken," Clemons told the newspaper on Monday. "We know that this is a hard time and we deeply apologize and we are praying for everyone. And we ask the same in return."

Clemons, 34, said Martin's mother is grieving for her son and that "she would like for everyone if they could, find it in their hearts to find forgiveness," so her family and others can move forward.

The family has no immediate answers on what led Martin to open fire at the industrial valve manufacturer about 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Chicago, Clemons said. The shooting also left a sixth worker wounded.

"We are saddened by his actions and we are shocked," she said. "We had no clue he would ever be involved in something like this."

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said Tuesday his administration is reviewing how Martin had a weapon despite a felony conviction, and is examining the "problem that's apparent in the system of retrieving firearms from people whose FOID cards are voided."

Illinois State Police said Monday that Martin had lied about his criminal history in 2014 to obtain a card from the agency that allowed him to purchase a handgun.

Martin had answered "no" to a question on his January 2014 application for a Firearm Owner's Identification card about whether he'd ever been convicted of a felony, state police said.

A records search "revealed no prohibiting factors" in Martin's Illinois criminal history, state police said. His card was approved on Jan. 31, 2014. He then purchased a handgun in March 2014.

State police said Martin submitted fingerprints as part of an application later in March 2014 for a concealed carry license. Those prints revealed an FBI record and a felony conviction in Mississippi for aggravated assault stemming from the stabbing of an ex-girlfriend. Martin was sentenced to five years in prison for the assault, and was released from custody in April 1997, state police said.

But it prompted only a letter to Martin notifying him that his concealed carry application was denied and ordering him to surrender his weapons.

State police say Martin's FOID card was revoked in April 2014 and that their procedure at the time was to notify local law enforcement. Aurora police Sgt. Bill Rowley said Tuesday that the department has no record of receiving that notification, though he said it's possible it was sent and the department no longer has a record of it.

ACROSS THE NATION

Dog reunited with family 101 days after California wildfire

PARADISE, Calif. (AP)—A dog named Kingston is back with his family 101 days after he jumped out of their truck as they fled a devastating Northern California wildfire. The 12-year-old Akita was reunited Monday with the Ballejos family, who fled the town of Paradise late last year, Sacramento television station KXTV reported . "When I found out, (it) just about brought me to tears," said Gabriel Ballejos, Kingston's owner. "I'm so proud of him. I can't believe it. He's a true survivor, and it's a testament to the American spirit." Ballejos said they never lost hope and kept posting flyers and contacting shelters. "Every night I would ask my dad and tell him that we needed to go look for him," said Ballejos' daughter, Maleah. The family got a call after animal rescue volunteer Ben Lepe trapped Kingston on Sunday and took him to Friends of Camp Fire Cats, a local rescue group. The volunteers saw a missing dog message on Facebook and contacted the family. Lepe said the large dog had been spotted on surveillance cameras and that he set up a trap big enough for it on Saturday.

Hiker stuck in quicksand at Utah park feared he would die

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A man who was stranded for hours in frigid weather with his leg sunk up to the knee in quicksand at a creek in Utah's Zion National Park said Tuesday that he feared he would lose his leg and might die because the quicksand's water was so cold. Ryan Osmun, 34, of Mesa, Arizona, told NBC's "Today" show that he hallucinated at one point while waiting several hours alone after his girlfriend Jessika McNeill left him last Saturday to get help. "I thought for sure I would lose my leg," Osmun said. "And then toward the end I thought I wasn't going to make it." Quicksand can form in saturated loose sand and standing water—the combination found on the river bed trail Osmun and McNeill were hiking, said Aly Baltrus, Zion National Park spokeswoman. Osmun had stepped into a small hole filled with it, Baltrus said. "When water cannot escape, it creates a liquefied soil that cannot support weight and creates suction," Baltrus said.

Delta jet lands safely after pilot reports lightning strike

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)—Officials say a Delta Air Lines jet has made an emergency landing in Tennessee after the pilot reported lightning had struck the plane. The MD-90 passenger jet was heading from Milwaukee to Atlanta on Tuesday afternoon when the pilot landed at the airport in Chattanooga. Airport spokesman Albert Waterhouse says the plane landed safely and none of the 164 people on board was injured. WTVC-TV reports the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement that the pilot "reported a possible lightning strike and declared an emergency." Waterhouse says the plane was being inspected as the airline worked to determine how to get the passengers safely to Atlanta. The emergency landing came as storms packing heavy rain rolled across the Tennessee Valley on Tuesday.

Asia

Pakistani PM willing to talk but warns India not to attack

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's prime minister offered to hold talks with India, even as he warned New Delhi to refrain from launching any attacks on his country following last week's suicide bombing in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

Imran Khan said he hoped "better sense" would prevail after the attack on a paramilitary convoy that killed at least 40 Indian troops. But he warned in a televised speech Tuesday that if India attacks, "Pakistan will not merely think of retaliation, but rather, we will retaliate."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged both sides "to exercise maximum restraint and take immediate steps to de-escalate tensions," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

He said the U.N. chief's "good offices are available if accepted by both sides."

Since independence from Britain in 1947, Pakistan and India have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, which is divided between the two countries but claimed by each in its entirety.

The U.N. Security Council in 1948 called for a plebiscite "as soon as possible" on the future of the Himalayan territory but it has never been held. A U.N. peacekeeping mission has been in the region since 1949.

The bombing last Thursday in which a militant rammed an explosive-laden van into a paramilitary bus was the worst attack against Indian government forces in the history of Kashmir, where rebels have been fighting Indian rule since 1989.

India has blamed Pakistan and threatened a "jaw-breaking response." Islamabad condemned the attack and cautioned India against linking Pakistan to the bombing without an investigation.

"If you have any actionable evidence, share it with us and we will take action," Khan said. "We are ready to cooperate with India in the investigations."

"I hope better sense will prevail," he added.

His remarks were in response to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement that his security forces have been given "total freedom" to deal with the militants in Kashmir.

Hours later, India's External Affairs Ministry said in a statement it was surprised that Khan "refuses to acknowledge the attack on our security forces in Pulwama as an act of terrorism" and that the Pakistani premier "has neither chosen to condemn this heinous act, nor condoled with the bereaved families."

It said Khan ignored claims of responsibility made by Jaish-e-Mohammad, as well as by the assailant who perpetrated the crime.

"It is a well-known fact that Jaish-e-Mohammad and its leader Masood Azhar are based in Pakistan. These should be sufficient proof for Pakistan to take action," it said.

It said Khan sought evidence from New Delhi, which was "a lame excuse" as India had given evidence to Islamabad following the Mumbai attacks in 2008 and "despite this, the case has not progressed for the last more than 10 years."

"Pakistan claims to be the greatest victim of terrorism. This is far from the truth. The international community is well acquainted with the reality that Pakistan is the nerve center of terrorism," it said.

Azhar was released from custody in India in 1999, in exchange for more than 150 hostages from a hijacked Indian Airlines flight.

India and Pakistan have both recalled their ambassadors since the attack, and Pakistan called on the U.N. to help defuse tensions.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi sent a letter to Secretary-General Guterres saying that "for domestic political reasons, India has deliberately ratcheted up its hostile rhetoric against Pakistan and created a tense environment."

Pakistan's U.N. Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi met later with Guterres at U.N. headquarters in New York and said she told him "we are on the cusp of a very dangerous situation in South Asia."

Noting India's threats "to teach Pakistan a lesson," she said she stressed to Guterres that "we don't want to go down this path."

"We would like to see a dialogue resume between Pakistan and India," Lodhi told AP. "We are ready to talk on terrorism, on Kashmir—all the issues which are outstanding between the two countries."

She said Guterres reminded her that he previously offered "his good offices," but India didn't accept.

Lodhi said she also met with the Security Council president and asked him to informally brief members about the emerging situation.



AP

Indian Army's General Officer Commanding of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps Lt. Gen. K.J.S. Dhillon, center, speaks as Inspector General of Police Swayam Prakash Pani, left, and Inspector General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) operation Zulfiqar Hassan sit by his side during a joint press conference in Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Ex-diplomat says North Korean leader won't give up nukes

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A former North Korean diplomat says leader Kim Jong Un has no intention of giving up his nuclear weapons and sees his upcoming second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump as a chance to cement his country's status as a nuclear weapons state. Thae Yong Ho, who defected to South Korea in 2016, said in a news conference in Seoul on Tuesday that next week's meeting in Vietnam will be a failure if Trump can't get Kim to declare he will abandon all of his nuclear facilities and weapons and return North Korea to the nuclear non-proliferation agreement. Thae worked as a minster at the North Korean Embassy in London before fleeing to South Korea. He is the highest-level North Korean diplomat to defect to the South.

Roadside bomb kills 6 civilians in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says at least six civilians were killed by a roadside bomb as their vehicle was traveling through the eastern province of Laghman. Asadullah Dawlatzai, the provincial governor's spokesman, says the victims were travelling in Qarghayi district when the bomb went off Tuesday. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Taliban insurgents routinely plant explosives targeting Afghan security forces, bombs which end up killing or maiming civilians. In a separate attack late Monday, police say a doctor was killed as he returned home from his private clinic in Kabul by an explosive device attached to his vehicle. The Islamic State group claimed the attack in the capital.

China closes Tibet to foreigners for sensitive anniversaries

BEIJING (AP)—China is keeping foreign travelers out of Tibet during sensitive political anniversaries. Travel agencies contacted Wednesday said foreign tourists would not be allowed into the Himalayan region until April 1. It's not clear when the ban started, although some monitoring groups said it started this month. March 10 is the 60th anniversary of an abortive 1959 uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet, while anti-government riots occurred March 14, 2008, in the regional capital Lhasa. While the foreigner travel ban is an annual occurrence, the occasion of the 60th anniversary is drawing special attention from the authorities. Amid heavy security on the ground, Tibet is almost entirely closed to foreign journalists and diplomats and information about actual conditions there is hard to obtain.

US, China resume trade talks in Washington ahead of deadline

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States and China resume talks Tuesday aimed at ending a fight over Beijing's technology ambitions ahead of a deadline for a massive U.S. tariff hike.

The White House said that meetings between mid-level delegations will begin in Washington following talks last week in Beijing that U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said "made headway" on key issues.

On Thursday, Lighthizer will lead higher level talks, joined by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow and trade adviser Peter Navarro.

Leading the Chinese team will be Vice Premier Liu He, according to the Xinhua news agency.

Business groups and economists saw Friday's surprise announcement of further talks this week as a sign that the two counties were making progress.

Both governments have expressed optimism, but they have given no details of their talks. Economists say the time available for negotiations is too brief to resolve an array of irritants in U.S.-Chinese relations. They say Beijing's goal is to persuade President Donald Trump they are making enough progress to push back threatened U.S. penalties.

Beijing hopes for "a mutually beneficial and win-win agreement that is acceptable to both sides," said a foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang.

Without an agreement, a 10 percent tariff increase imposed on $200 billion of Chinese goods is due to rise to 25 percent on March 2.

Last Friday, Lighthizer told the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, the two sides "made headway on very, very important and difficult issues."

Trump imposed the penalties over complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology. The talks also include complaints about Beijing's plans for government-led technology development, cyberspying and China's trade surplus.

Beijing retaliated with higher duties on U.S. goods and told its importers to find other suppliers. That led to a 40 percent drop in Chinese imports of American goods in January.

Washington, Europe, Japan and other trading partners complain plans such as "Made in China 2025," which calls for government -led creation of global competitors in robotics and other technologies, violate Beijing's market-opening obligations.

China's leaders have offered to narrow its multibillion-dollar trade surplus with the United States by purchasing more natural gas, soybeans and other exports. But they are resisting pressure to scale back industry plans they see as a path to prosperity and global influence.

Other stumbling blocks include Chinese resistance to U.S. pressure to accept an enforcement mechanism with penalties to ensure Beijing carries out whatever commitments it makes.

Trump said last week he might be willing to push back the March 2 date if the talks go well but Washington has yet to say whether the negotiations are making enough progress.

World

Pressure builds to get civilians out of last IS-held enclave

AL-OMAR OIL FIELD BASE, Syria (AP)—Dozens of trucks arrived Tuesday at the outskirts of a besieged enclave held by the Islamic State group in eastern Syria, signaling renewed efforts to evacuate hundreds of civilians trapped in the militants' last patch of territory along the Euphrates River.

A spokesman for the U.S.-backed Syrian militia that is spearheading the fight against IS said a military operation aimed at ousting the extremists from the enclave will begin if they don't surrender.

Such an operation would take place after separating or evacuating civilians from the militants, estimated to be about 300 combatants, said Mustafa Bali, the spokesman for the Syrian Democratic Forces.

Just before sundown Tuesday, more than 40 trucks headed toward Baghouz, the last village where IS militants are trapped with hundreds of civilians. There was no sign of the civilians returning by dark, and on the other edge of the IS-controlled territory, more than one airstrike hit, apparently increasing the pressure on those holding out. Gunfire echoed over the hills in the distance as soldiers from the SDF waited for the expected evacuation.

"We are working on either separating the civilians or evacuating them and raiding the place," Bali told The Associated Press.

The Islamic State group has been reduced from its self-proclaimed caliphate that once spread across much of Syria and Iraq at its height in 2014 to a speck of land on the countries' shared border. In that tiny pocket on the banks of the river, the militants are hiding among civilians in the shadow of a small hill, encircled by forces waiting to declare the territorial defeat of the extremist group.

Bali's comments signaled an easing of a standoff that has lasted for more than a week. Nearly 20,000 civilians had left the shrinking area in recent weeks before the evacuation halted last week when the militants closed all the roads out of the tiny area.

AP journalists saw dozens of trucks moving to the tip of a humanitarian corridor used in past weeks. That corridor had been deserted for the last week after thousands fled through it.

About 40 civilians, including a French woman, left the enclave Tuesday morning, apparently after paying smugglers, said a member of the Free Burma Rangers, a volunteer medical group.

Adnan Afrin, a commander with the SDF, said a number of civilians and some fighters have turned themselves in, and that the trucks went to the corridor to get them. He said those who surrendered included Europeans and Americans. He reported some clashes on the other side of the enclave between SDF fighters and IS militants who want to continue the battle.

An SDF commander, Zana Amedi, said his group gave a final warning to the remaining militants to surrender. In a Twitter post, he said most of them are seriously wounded or sick.

A U.N. official said she is concerned about the condition of the some 200 families trapped in the enclave.

In a statement issued in Geneva, U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said the extremists are actively preventing civilians, including women and children, from leaving the area.

The International Rescue Committee said Monday that more than 60 people have died in recent weeks after making their way out of the IS-controlled area, most of them from exhaustion and malnutrition. They either died along the way or soon after arriving at a massive camp in northern Syria that is hosting those fleeing in eastern Deir el-Zour province.

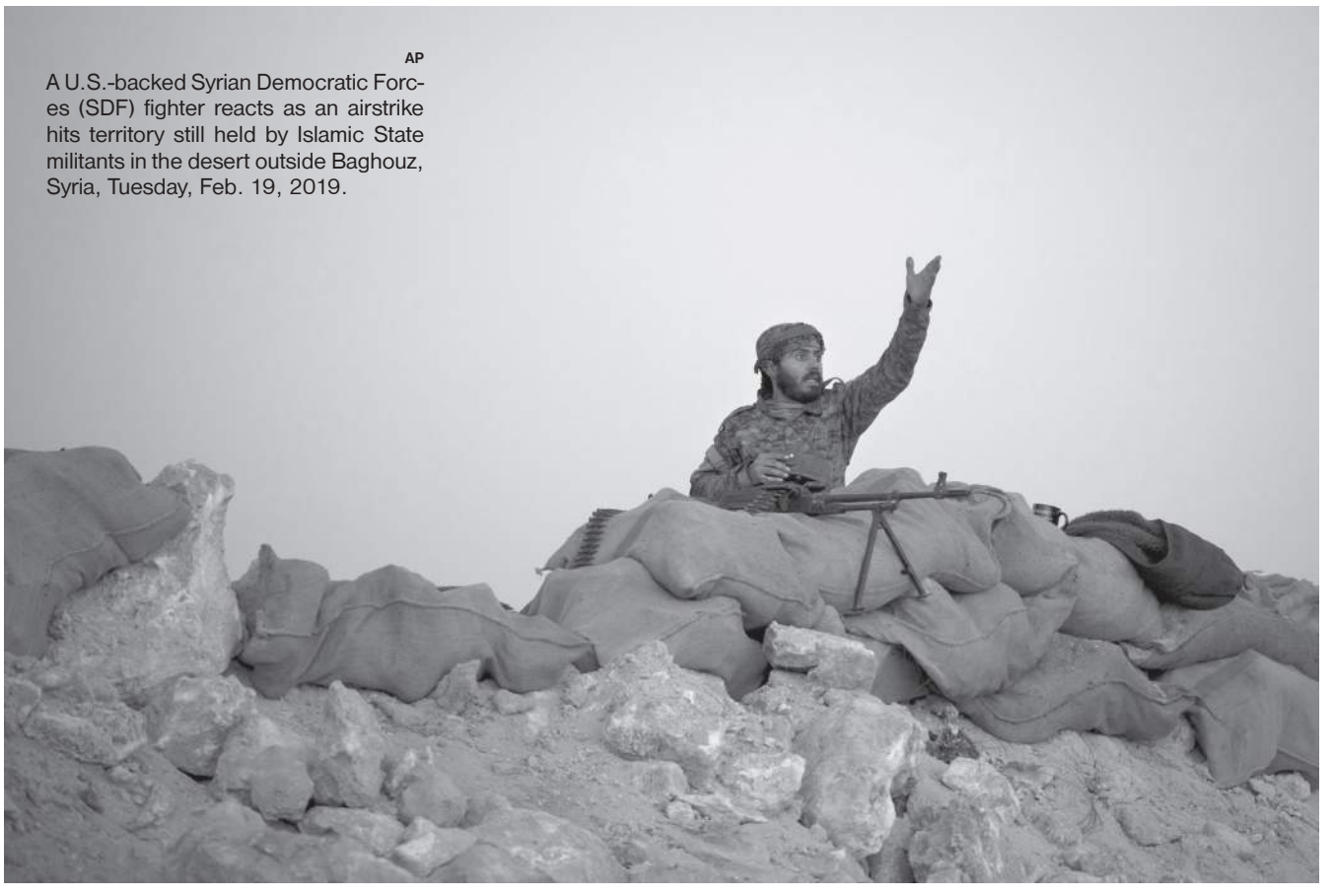
In southern Syria, near the border with Jordan, the Syrian government opened two humanitarian corridors Tuesday with the help of Russian troops for people who want to move from one camp to other parts of the country, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

The Rukban camp is home to about 40,000 displaced people who suffer from lack of food and medical supplies. It was not immediately clear if people had started leaving.

Last week, the U.N. and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered badly needed humanitarian assistance as Russia offered to help relocate those willing to move to government-held areas in Syria.

AP

A U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighter reacts as an airstrike hits territory still held by Islamic State militants in the desert outside Baghouz, Syria, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019.



EU official criticizes Hungary PM Orban for campaign posters

BRUSSELS (AP)—A top European Union official criticized Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Tuesday for election campaign posters alleging that EU headquarters has purposely weakened the bloc's external borders to let in more migrants.

Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans said when it comes to spinning the truth in political campaigning "this is something in a completely different universe."

The Hungarian government says its new campaign—launched ahead of May's European Parliament election—is meant to inform citizens about "Brussels' plans to encourage immigration."

"Everyone has the right to know which are the current proposals fundamentally threatening Hungary's safety," the government said.

In Hungary, posters have gone up focusing on EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and Hungarian-American financier George Soros.

According to the poster, EU leaders, who Orban says are carrying out instructions from Soros, "are launching experimental immigration projects with African countries; want to introduce mandatory settlement quotas; want to reduce financial assistance for countries opposed to migration."

A post on the Hungarian government's Facebook page showed a similar poster but with other claims—"They want to introduce mandatory settlement quotas; they want to weaken the border protection rights of the member states; they would facilitate immigration with migrant visas."

Timmermans said the EU and Juncker were actually at the forefront of reinforcing the EU's external borders.

Juncker asked rhetorically what he was supposed to do about Hungary's campaign.

"You can't really act against lies," Juncker said Tuesday in Stuttgart, Germany.

Juncker underlined his support for throwing Orban's Fidesz party out of the center-right European People's Party group in the European Parliament.

"I don't think the conservatives in Hungary represent Christian democratic values in any way," he said. "There is no overlap at all between Mr. Orban and me ... so I am of the opinion that his place is not in the European People's Party."

Orban's zealous anti-immigration policies allowed him to win his third consecutive term in April and have also won him populist admirers across Europe.

In late 2015, at the height of the migrant crisis, Orban had razor-wire fences erected on the country's southern borders with Serbia and Croatia to stop migrants.

Last year, Hungary further tightened its migration and refugee laws, making it nearly impossible for any asylum-seekers arriving at Hungary's borders to have their asylum claims approved. The policies have been widely condemned by the United Nations and rights groups.

Soros, who Orban sees as a key ideological foe, has been the target of government smear campaigns in previous years that critics say are based on anti-Semitic tropes.

Orban denies any anti-Semitic aspect to the anti-Soros campaigns.

Religious orders apologize for sex abuse inaction, cover-ups

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Catholic religious orders around the world apologized Tuesday for having failed to respond when their priests raped children, acknowledging that their family-like communities blinded them to sexual abuse and led to misplaced loyalties, denial and cover-ups.

The two umbrella organizations representing the world's religious orders issued a joint statement ahead of Pope Francis' sex abuse prevention summit, which opens Thursday. They vowed to implement accountability measures to ensure that cover-ups by religious superiors end and that children are always safe in the presence of clergy.

With a few exceptions, religious orders have largely flown under the radar in the decades-long scandal, since the focus has been on how diocesan bishops protected their priests and moved them from parish to parish where they were free to abuse again.

Yet congregations such as the Jesuits, Salesians and Christian Brothers have some of the worst records, since they too moved abusers around and had easy access to young victims, since many orders specialize in running schools.

The Union of Superiors General represents the leadership of male religious orders, which count around 133,000 priests globally. The female branch, the International Union of Superiors General, represents some 500,000 religious sisters. They will each send around a dozen representatives to the Vatican sex abuse summit.

In the statement, the groups said they were ashamed at how they had failed the most vulnerable they were meant to serve and blamed "the strong sense of family" that their communities fostered for having blinded them to the warning signs.

"It resulted in a misplaced loyalty, errors in judgment, slowness to act, denial and at times, cover-up," they said. "We still need conversion and we want to change. We want to act with humility. We want to see our blind spots. We want to name any abuse of power."

To that end, the statement also condemned recent revelations of priests and bishops who sexually abused seminarians and nuns—an abuse of power that has largely gone unpunished since the victims are adults.

While noting the pope's summit is focused on the protection of minors, the groups pledged to find a response.

"This is a matter of grave and shocking concern," they said.

Environment

Scientists reveal climate forecast for 2080—and it's a whole lot warmer

By DEBORAH NETBURN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Scientists have just revealed the climate forecast for the year 2080 in hundreds of cities across North America, and—surprise!—it looks like it's going to get a whole lot warmer in all of them.

If humanity continues to emit greenhouse gases at the same rate it does today, in 60 years L.A.'s climate will most closely resemble the current climate of Cabo San Lucas, at the southern tip of Baja California in Mexico. Portland, which currently averages 155 rainy days per year, will feel like Sacramento, where only 59 days of the year have rain in them. And the New York City of the future will be like the Jonesboro, Ark., of today, according to a new study in Nature Communications.

If you're a warm-weather lover, perhaps some of these changes don't sound so bad. After all, would you rather endure a winter in Boston or in Rosedale, Md.?

But this warming comes with serious environmental consequences, experts said.

"From a beach-day perspective, warmer might be better, but it is not better for our food production and in some areas it could lead to more pests, invasive species and disease," said study leader Matthew Fitzpatrick, a biogeographer at the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science.

Aedes mosquitoes, which transmit Zika, dengue and other deadly viruses, prefer warmer weather and may be able to spread into new areas of the U.S. as temperatures climb, scientists said.

On the West Coast, warmer temperatures are associated with more smog, which can be dangerous to people with asthma and allergies, and a decline in water quality.

Scientists have been warning about rising temperatures for years. In the new work, Fitzpatrick and his colleague Robert Dunn of North Carolina State University set out to make these projections more tangible thanks to a technique called climate analog mapping. It involves matching the expected future climate of one city with the current climate of another.

To do this, they started with climate model projections for 540 cities throughout North America, looking specifically at average maximum temperature, average minimum temperature and total precipitation in all four seasons in the year 2080. Then they used a computer program to find the city whose current climate most closely matched each projection.

The results show that in the eastern half of the U.S. and Canada, urban areas will most closely resemble cities that are 500 miles to the south. For example, the climate in Montreal in 2080 will most resemble the climate in Philadelphia today.

The story is more complicated in the west because the topography is more extreme, and because factors including proximity to the ocean influence the climate. For example, the authors report that the closest present-day equivalent to the climate of 2080 San Diego is Westmont, which lies about 120 miles north of San Diego between Inglewood and Watts in Los Angeles County.

Many cities did not have good analogs for their expected 2080 climate, including Los Angeles. By the year 2080, temperatures in L.A. are expected to resemble those now occurring in Cabo San Lucas, but it won't have Cabo's pattern of precipitation.

"Cabo is much drier in the winter and spring and much wetter in the summer and fall than L.A.," Fitzpatrick said.

Other regions without good matches include the Gulf Coast of the United States, he said. This suggests that by 2080, large parts of the country will experience a climate that has never before seen in the United States.

Fitzpatrick added that some of the North American cities might have better analogs elsewhere in the world, but he and Dunn chose to limit their search to the Western Hemisphere.

"We don't think most Americans will know what the climate is like in a city in China or India," Fitzpatrick said. "The goal is to make climate change less abstract and something people can relate to based on their own experiences."

Indeed, all of the climate data in the new report has been published before, the authors said. What makes this work different from previous studies is how it is presented.

"What we wanted to do was translate these climate forecasts that we hear all the time into something that is more digestible," Fitzpatrick said.

A recent NASA report found that last year's average global surface temperature was 1.49 degrees Fahrenheit above a baseline period between 1951 and 1980. But what does that actually mean for local climate?

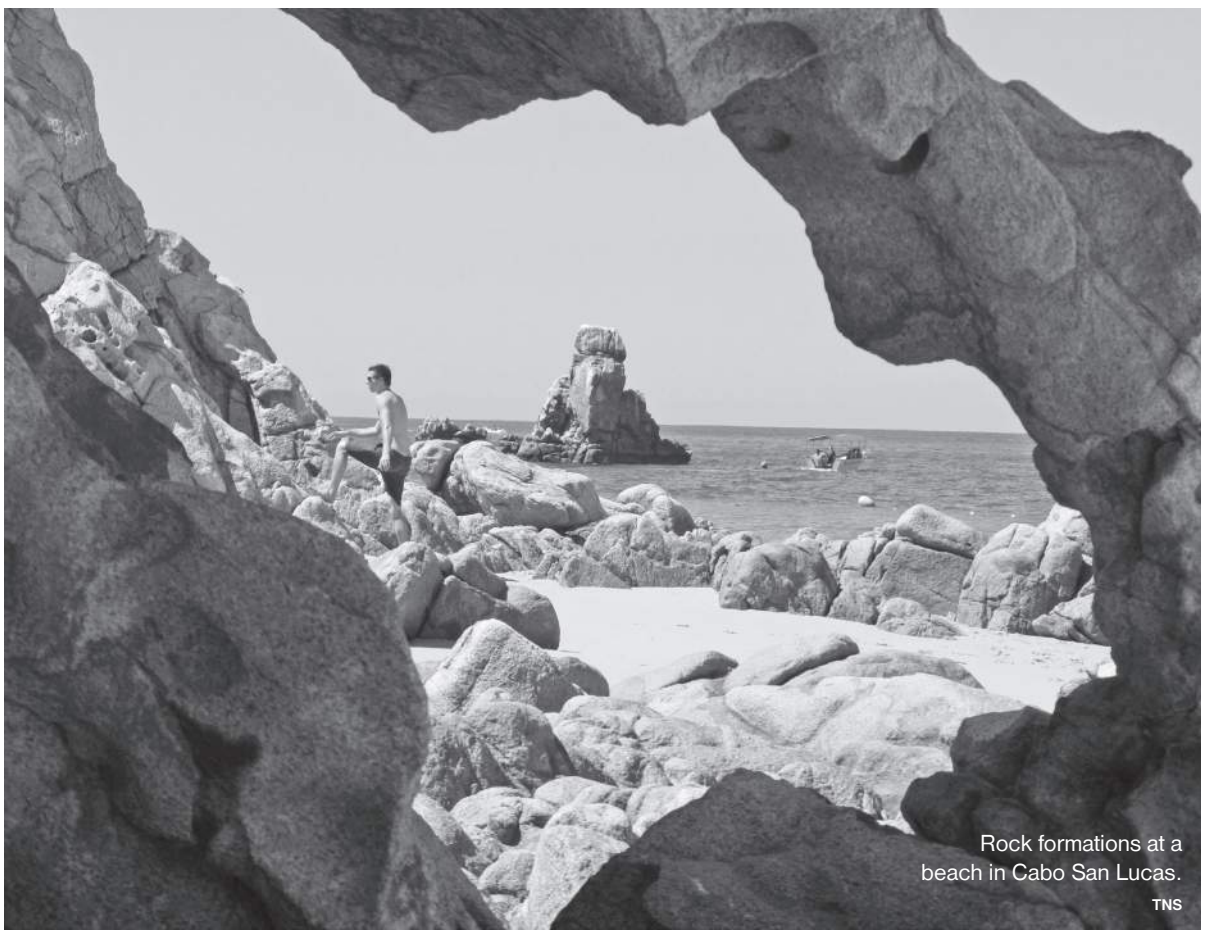
"Many people might think, 'It's 70 degrees now, it will be 71.5 degrees tomorrow, what is the big deal?' Our desire is to address that problem," Fitzpatrick said.

To make their findings even more accessible to the general public, Fitzpatrick and Dunn created a website that allows users to type in the name of a city and see what current climate it will most resemble in 2080.

Alex Hall, who directs the Center for Climate Science at UCLA, said the work represents an effective way to present changes in average climate, and he applauded the authors for including so many cities in their analysis.

However, he noted that there is more to climate change than shifts in average temperature and precipitation.

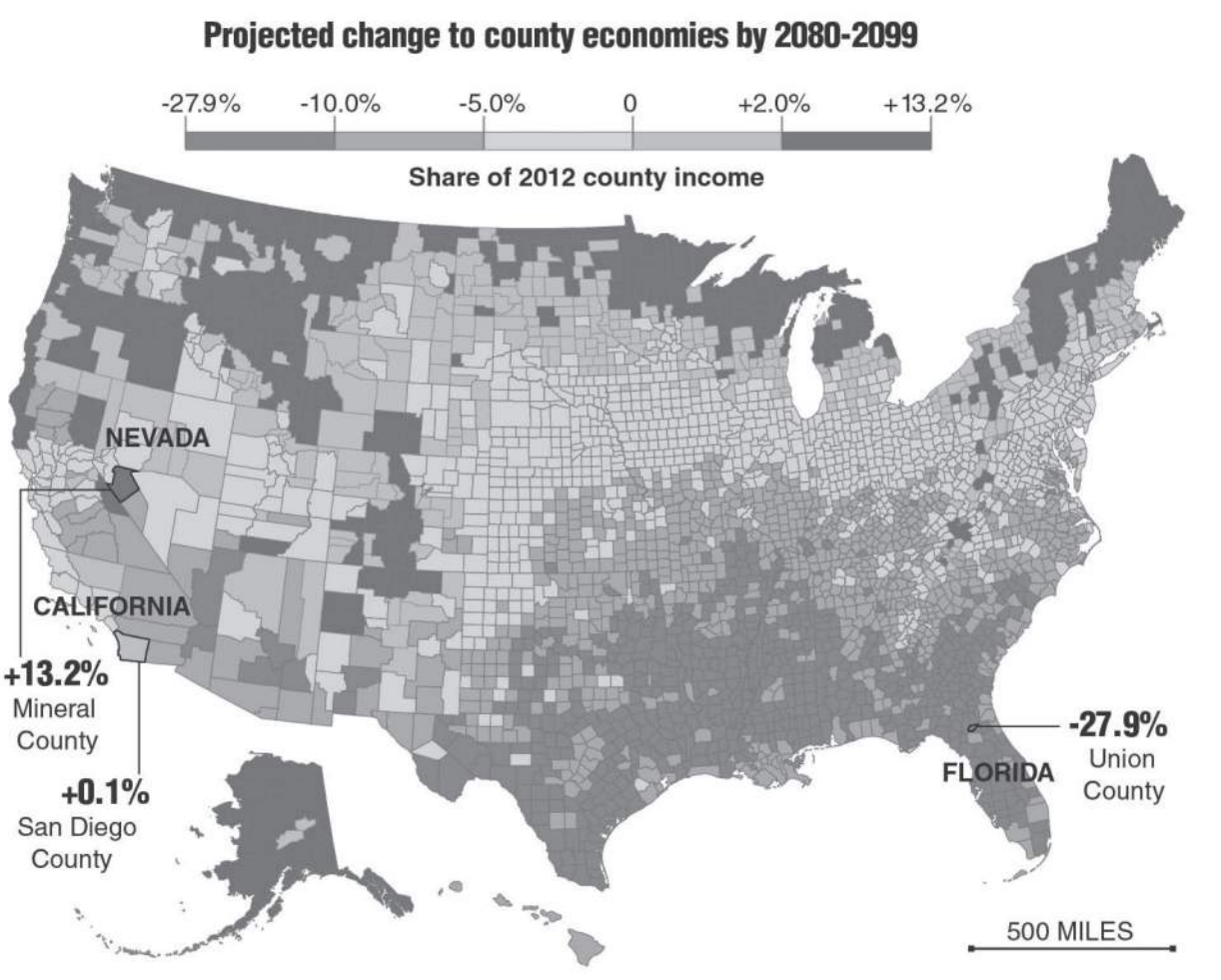
"Changes in extremes, which we also expect, matter a lot, especially here in California," he said. "Still, I think this communication technique conveys the dramatic scale of climate change quite well."



Rock formations at a beach in Cabo San Lucas.
TNS

Global warming's economic toll

If climate change continues unabated, many counties are predicted to see significant impacts on everything from agricultural yields to coastal flooding to mortality.



Based on median likelihood temperature projections

Sources: Brookings Institution and UC San Diego analysis using data from the Climate Impact Lab, which includes researchers at UC Berkeley and University of Chicago

Graphic: Michelle Gilchrist, The San Diego Union-Tribune/TNS

Life & Style

'Black Panther' designer Ruth Carter on her start, Spike Lee

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's a big week for Ruth E. Carter, who on Sunday could become the first African-American to win an Academy Award for costume design through her Afro-futuristic wardrobes in "Black Panther." But before that show, Carter will receive a career achievement award Tuesday at the 21st annual Costume Designers Guild Awards.

She talked about her early years with Spike Lee and her favorite "Black Panther" costumes during a recent interview with The Associated Press .

WHERE IT ALL STARTED

Carter still possesses her sketches from her college days at Hampton University and during an internship with the Santa Fe Opera.

She spent countless hours drawing all sorts of characters, honing her craft in her dorm room and small studio in Los Angeles a few years after college. One sketch she keeps handy is of a unisex dancer sporting red and gray tights.

"I was so excited about the idea of costume design and how it intersects with art. I really wanted to draw the characters out. I spent a lot of time in my dorm room or once I came out to L.A. in my semi-studio at my drafting table," said Carter, who graduated from Hampton in 1982.

In her early days, Carter delved into a script and drew characters before knowing the person who would play the role. She did that in her first-ever film, Spike Lee's "School Daze."

"My process at the beginning was to go head on into the script and draw out the characters and make them funny," said Carter, speaking with sketches from a cross-section of her lifetime work laid out on a table.

Carter had numerous sketches including Chicken George from "ROOTS," a zoot suit drawing of Malcolm X and a boxing promoter named Sultan from the "The Great White Hype."

"This is what I do, this is what I love," she said.



In this Jan. 15, 2019 photo, designer Ruth E. Carter, nominated for an Oscar for best costume designs for "Black Panther," poses for a portrait in Los Angeles. AP

CARTER'S FAVORITE COSTUME

Carter has created costumes of memorable characters from Denzel Washington's Malcom X in "Malcolm X," Spike Lee's Mookie in "Do the Right Thing" and Forest Whitaker's Cecil Gaines in "The Butler."

But she said her favorite costumes came from "Black Panther," particularly the Dora Milaje, a team of women elite warriors who protected the kingdom of Wakanda. She said the layered wardrobes of the all-female special forces were "impactful" and "powerful."

"I was very inspired when we did these illustrations," said Carter, who worked with six illustrators on the superhero Marvel film. She typically works with one.

"You know, it's quite imaginative. Because we had to work in so many different ways and so fast, I'm really proud of these because we were able to create a look and a world in a short amount of time."

PAYIN' IT FORWARD

Even though Carter paved her own way as a costume designer, she never had a problem uplifting others.

That's the mindset she particularly had while working with Spike Lee. She said the mission at Lee's production company, 40 Acres and a Mule, was to positively "push the Afro future and African diaspora."

"We considered ourselves positive role models in the film industry," she said. "There were always internships at 40 Acres and a Mule where we were teaching younger people who didn't have an inroad to the film industry, exposing so many people to the industry including myself. Because of that, I give back as much as I can."

Designer Karl Lagerfeld, Chanel's global icon, dies in Paris

By THOMAS ADAMSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS (AP)—Karl Lagerfeld, the iconic couturier whose designs at Chanel and Fendi had an unprecedented impact on the entire fashion industry, died Tuesday in Paris, prompting an outpouring of love and admiration for the man whose career spanned six decades.

Although he spent virtually his entire career at luxury labels catering to the very wealthy—including 20 years at Chloe—Lagerfeld's designs quickly trickled down to low-end retailers, giving him global influence.

Former supermodel Claudia Schiffer, who credits Lagerfeld as her mentor, called him her "magic dust."

"What (Andy) Warhol was to art, he was to fashion; he is irreplaceable," she said.

The German-born designer may have spent much of his life in the public eye—his trademark white ponytail, high starched collar and dark glasses are instantly recognizable—but he remained a largely elusive figure.

Such was the enigma surrounding the octogenarian Lagerfeld that even his age was a point of mystery for decades, with reports he had two birth certificates, one dated 1933 and the other 1938.



In this Monday Oct.14, 1996 file photo, Karl Lagerfeld is applauded by Claudia Schiffer, left, and Naomi Campbell at the end of the Chanel 1997 Spring-Summer ready-to-wear collection presented in Paris. AP

In 2013, Lagerfeld told the French magazine "Paris Match" he was born in September of 1935—which would make him 83 today—but in 2019 his assistant still didn't know the truth—telling The Associated Press he liked "to scramble the tracks on his year of birth—that's part of the character."

Chanel confirmed that Lagerfeld, who had looked increasingly frail in recent seasons, died early Tuesday in Paris. Last month, he did not come out to take a bow at the house's couture show in Paris—a rare absence that the company attributed to him being "tired."

"An extraordinary creative individual, Lagerfeld reinvented the brand's codes created by Gabrielle Chanel: the Chanel jacket and suit, the little black dress, the precious tweeds, the two-tone shoes, the quilted handbags, the pearls and costume jewelry," Chanel said.

The brand's CEO Alain Wertheimer praised Lagerfeld for an "exceptional intuition" that was ahead of his time and contributed to Chanel's global success.

"Today, not only have I lost a friend, but we have all lost an extraordinary creative mind to whom I gave carte blanche in the early 1980s to reinvent the brand," he said.

Chanel said Virginie Viard, his longtime head of studio, will create the house's upcoming collections, but did not say whether her appointment was permanent.

Tributes from fellow designers, Hollywood celebrities, models and politicians quickly poured in. Donatella Versace thanked Lagerfeld for the way he inspired her and her late brother Gianni Versace.

Lagerfeld was one of the most hardworking figures in the fashion world, joining luxury Italian fashion house Fendi in 1965 and later becoming its longtime womenswear design chief in 1977, as well as leading designs at Paris' family-owned power-house Chanel since 1983.

While at Fendi, Lagerfeld helped create the notion of fun fur, lending an ease to a formal wardrobe topper by adding stylized touches.

At Chanel, he served up youthful designs that were always of the moment and sent out almost infinite variations on the house's classic skirt suit, ratcheting up the hemlines or smothering it in golden chains, stings of pearls or pricey accessories.

Wit was never far behind any collection.

Celebrities react to death of Lagerfeld

"His humor, wit, love and passion for fashion will live on forever. Thank you for the inspiration that you gave to this world and for all of the hearts that you touched in the process." — **Bella Hadid, via Instagram.**

■■■

"We lost a true legend!!!! You were such an inspiration to the world! You shot my first fashion shoot and I was so nervous to work with such an icon! The world is so much chicer because you existed! I am beyond honored to have met you and had the opportunity to work with you. You are so loved and will be so missed." — **Kim Kardashian, via Instagram**.

■■■

"Rest In Peace, Karl Lagerfeld. You truly were an inspiration." — **Neil Patrick Harris, via Twitter.**

■■■

"What a talent. What an appetite for life. Wonderful and lethal company. Never a dull moment." — **Elton John, via Instagram.**

■■■

"Karl your genius touched the lives of so many, especially Gianni and I. We will never forget your incredible talent and endless inspiration. We were always learning from you." — **Donatella Versace, via Instagram.**

■■■

"He hated tattoos, sweatpants, meetings & sandals. This alone earns him 'Legend' status." — **Piers Morgan, via Twitter.**

■■■

"My heart is broken. Thank you for everything." — **Lindsay Lohan, via Instagram.**

■■■

"There will always be a place in my heart for you, my dear Karl. I will never forget your kindness, your generosity and how much we have laughed together. I will truly treasure those moments forever. You have inspired us in so many ways! Thank you, maestro." — **Penelope Cruz, via Instagram.**

■■■

"Karl, you graced this industry with so much genius and talent that will live on forever. Thank you for the incredible legacy you leave behind." — **Hailey Bieber, via Instagram.**

■■■

"The end of an era! RIP Karl Lagerfeld." — **Iman, via Twitter.**

Legal hurdles would look familiar in any new R. Kelly case

CHICAGO (AP)—Prosecutors will have to clear a series of high legal hurdles if they intend to charge R. Kelly and convict him, even if there's video evidence.

One case illustrates the difficulties: The R&B star's own 2008 trial at which he was acquitted. At the heart of that child pornography trial was a VHS recording that prosecutors said showed Kelly, in his 30s at the time, having sex with a girl as young as 13 sometime between 1998 and 2000.

Speculation that Kelly, now 52, could face new charges arose after attorney Michael Avenatti said he recently gave prosecutors a VHS tape of Kelly having sex with an underage girl, although it's not clear when it allegedly was recorded.

The office of Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx hasn't commented about whether a grand jury has convened to consider charges against Kelly. But Foxx may feel emboldened to bring new charges in the #MeToo era, said one legal scholar.

"Because they couldn't get the conviction in 2008, the state's attorney's office may feel justice wasn't done and they may want to take another stab at it," said DePaul University College of Law professor Monu Bedi, who teaches criminal law and procedure and has followed the Kelly case closely.



AP
In this June 30, 2013 file photo, R. Kelly performs at the BET Awards in Los Angeles.

Kelly's attorney, Steve Greenberg, has said his client "never knowingly had sex with an underage woman."

"If R. Kelly is charged with anything, we will address it in court. I am confident he will leave through the front door," Greenberg told The Associated Press.

Prosecutors in 2008 played the 27-minute VHS tape—entered as "People's Exhibit No. 1"—nearly every day for jurors during the monthlong trial. In it, a man has sex with a young female, who is not wearing any clothes for most of the recording. He speaks to her in a hushed voice, and she calls him "Daddy."

But in the end, jurors took just seven hours to deliberate before acquitting Kelly on all 14 child pornography counts. As the verdict was read aloud, tears streamed down Kelly's face.

"Thank you, Jesus," the singer said over and over in a soft voice.

Afterward, lead trial prosecutor Shauna Boliker told reporters the acquittal "shows the world how difficult this crime is to prosecute."

Prosecutors didn't explain in 2008 why they chose not to charge and try Kelly for sexual assault, though legal experts said it almost certainly had to do with the alleged victim's unwillingness to testify. Child pornography is, or should have been, easier to prove without a cooperating victim.

Statute of limitations is also an issue.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Actress Julianne Moore helps unveil sex misconduct policies

NEW YORK (AP) — Oscar-winning actress Julianne Moore has helped New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration unveil the governor's series of initiatives aimed at improving the lives of women in New York. Moore joined Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul (HOH'-kuhl) on Tuesday at Lincoln Center in Manhattan for an event launching Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Women's Justice Agenda. The Democrat was in Albany and didn't attend. Cuomo's list of proposals for 2019 includes eliminating the of limitations for rape claims and increasing protections against sexual harassment in the workplace. Some related initiatives have been passed by the Democratic-controlled Legislature and signed into law by the governor. Moore is a leader of the Time's Up movement fighting sexual harassment and promoting equality in the work place. She won the 2015 Oscar for best actress for her performance in "Still Alice."

Imagine Dragons to perform at Pro Football Hall of Fame

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — Imagine Dragons will perform at the Pro Football Hall of Fame to help kick off the NFL's 100th season. The Hall announced Tuesday that the alternative-rock band will headline the Concert for Legends on Aug. 4. Previous featured acts for the concert include Aerosmith, Tim McGraw, Toby Keith and Maroon 5. Imagine Dragons performed last month at the BCS national title game. The August show at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium is part of a week of festivities that includes first preseason game of 2019 and the enshrinement of new Hall of Famers — Champ Bailey, Pat Bowlen, Gil Brandt, Tony Gonzalez, Ty Law, Kevin Mawae, Ed Reed and Johnny Robinson.

Michael B. Jordan, Michelle Yeoh added to Oscars presenters

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael B. Jordan, Brian Tyree Henry, Michelle Yeoh and Elsie Fisher may have missed out on Oscar nominations this year, but they will be on stage at the Dolby Theatre during Sunday's ceremony. Producers Donna Gigliotti and Glenn Weiss said Tuesday that the actors have signed up to present awards on the ABC broadcast along with Michael Keaton, Danai Gurira, Helen Mirren and Tyler Perry. Other names added include Pharrell Williams, John Mulaney, Krysten Ritter and Paul Rudd. The producers said in a statement that the added stars will bring excitement, momentum and elements of surprise to the show. The 91st Academy Awards will be televised live on ABC Sunday starting at 8 p.m. ET.

Lady Gaga, fiance Christian Carino no longer together

NEW YORK (AP) — Lady Gaga and her fiance, talent agent Christian Carino, have split up. A representative for the singer-actress confirmed the news to The Associated Press on Tuesday. No more details were provided. Gaga, 32, and Carino, 49, began dating in 2017. Gaga was previously engaged to actor Taylor Kinney. Gaga has a big week ahead: She is a double nominee at Sunday's Academy Awards for her work in "A Star Is Born." Her nominations include best actress and best original song for "Shallow," which won two Grammys and a Golden Globe. The Academy Awards will air live on ABC from the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Meghan Markle spotted in New York for rumored baby shower

NEW YORK (AP) — Meghan Markle has been spotted at several swanky venues in New York City, cradling her baby bump as she visited friends for what is rumored to be a baby shower. The 37-year-old pregnant Meghan, formally known as the Duchess of Sussex, was seen Tuesday entering The Mark hotel on Manhattan's Upper East Side, at a restaurant on the ground floor of The Met Breuer and at The Surrey Hotel. Meghan wore sunglasses, a black William Vintage trapeze coat and neutral high heels with a matching bag. As photographers waited outside the Mark, a high-end boxed crib and pink flowers were delivered. Abigail Spencer, a co-star on Meghan's former TV show "Suits," was spotted at one of the gatherings. Meghan and Prince Harry announced the pregnancy in October.

Former Sessions spokeswoman joins CNN

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN has hired a former spokeswoman for Attorney General Jeff Sessions for work on its political desk as 2020 elections coverage heats up. The network says Sarah Isgur will help manage teams in the field and coordinate use of stories between the network's television and digital arms. CNN said Tuesday she'll be one of several editors supervised by political director David Chalian and won't be in a policy-making role. People who have jumped from political to media work are more often on-screen hosts or commentators. Isgur was in a different position in 2015 when, while working for Carly Fiorina's presidential campaign, she was quoted by the Washington Post calling CNN's decision to keep her out of a debate silly.

Son keeps his social life out of his parents' view

DEAR ABBY: Our 22-year-old son stays with us. He has a part-time job and goes to school part-time. He is somewhat secretive. We don't know his friends or where he goes.

One day he brought a male friend over and they hung out in our guesthouse, drinking and playing video games. This went on for several hours and then the blinds closed. My husband wasn't comfortable with that, so he knocked on the door and went in to talk to them. He asked the friend if he had a girlfriend, and the friend said no—that he's bisexual. Our son then announced that he is also bisexual.

We have only met one girl that he dated and the male friend who was over. The friend did say he isn't interested in our son, that they are strictly friends. I don't think my husband should have quizzed our son in front of his friend.

Our son has a chip on his shoulder and an "I don't care attitude" about many things. He blames a lot of things on his ADHD. He acts like he can't multitask or concentrate on what he's supposed to do. He tries, but if he forgets to do something, he gets an attitude from time to time. I don't know what to think.

FRUSTRATED IN WASHINGTON

DEAR FRUSTRATED: I can't help but wonder if your husband would have been as curious (and intrusive) if your son had been entertaining a woman in the guesthouse.

Your son has been honest with you about his sexual orientation. He's an adult and should be entitled to privacy regardless of the gender of his companion. He has also been honest about his limitations because of his attention deficit problem.

Unless he is breaking some rule that you and your husband have set in your home, what you should think is that your son is working, taking classes and trying his best to become independent. Perhaps if your husband is less heavy-handed with his questions, your son's attitude may improve.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with someone for 11 months. He has full custody of an 8-year-old son from a previous relationship. The mother hasn't been in the child's life for two years. His son knows I am his father's girlfriend and has seen us be affectionate with each other. He has also heard us say "I love you."

Lately, the boy has been saying "I love you" to me, and I am torn about how to respond. We have a good relationship, and I do care for him and his well-being, but I don't know how to respond when he says this. Do I say "I love you" back because I care for him, or should I not respond? I don't know if he's just mimicking what he sees or hears, but I also don't want to teach him that he shouldn't be open about his feelings.

CAUGHT OFF-GUARD

DEAR CAUGHT: All children want to feel loved. Because you care about the boy, give him a hug and say you love him, too, and always will.

I do have one caveat, however. If your relationship with his father doesn't work out, it is very important that you and the child's dad talk to him and tell him that the breakup has nothing to do with HIM, that it is not his fault, and he (the boy) will always have a special place in your heart.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

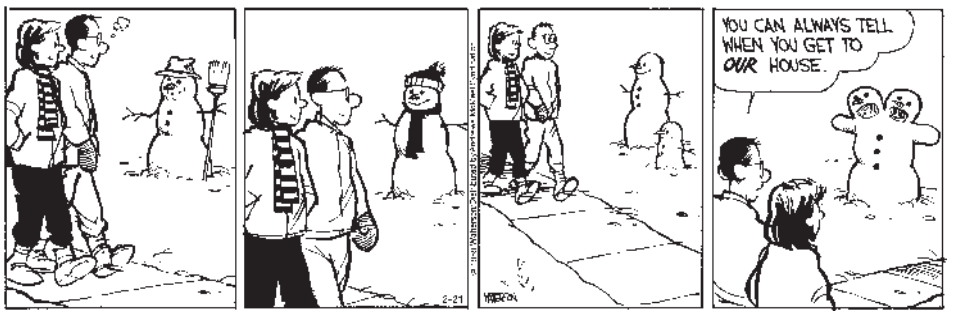


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



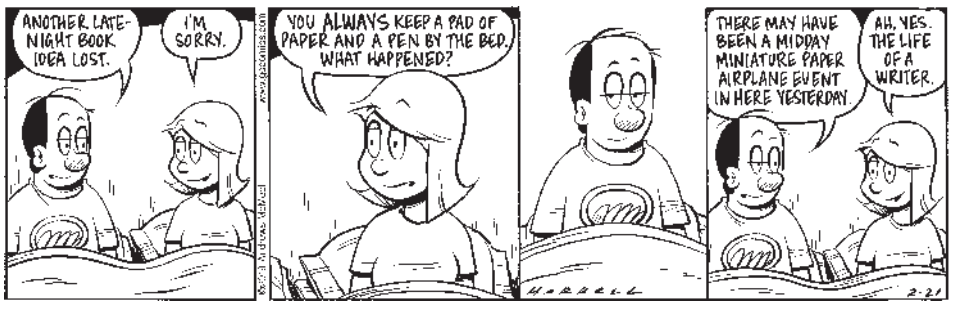
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



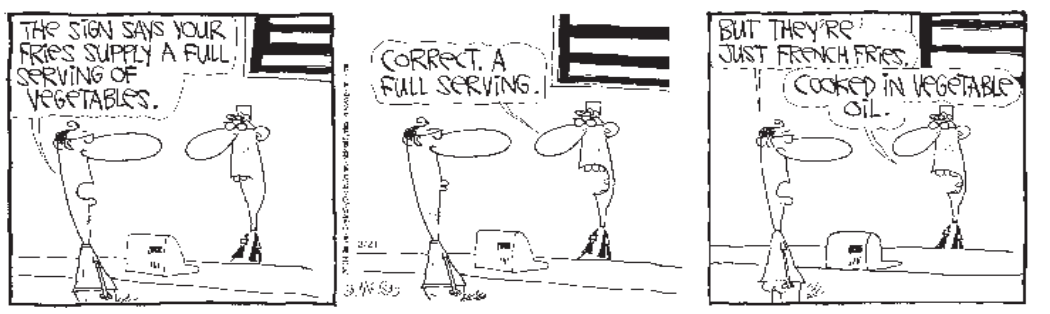
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

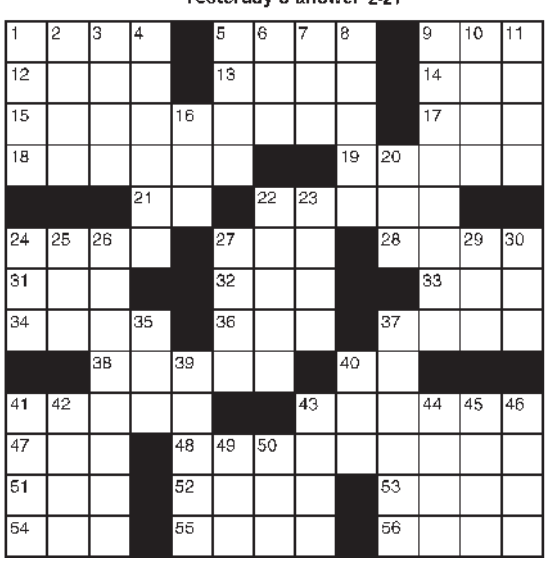
ACROSS
1 Greets the villain
5 Bummer
9 Wd. from Roget
12 Incite
13 Writer Rice
14 Scot's refusal
15 Time of youthful innocence
17 World Cup cheer
18 Jacket part
19 Cut wood
21 Hectic hosp. area
22 Sun block?
24 Satirist Mort
27 "Exodus" hero
28 Infatuated
31 Acapulco gold
32 Impose
33 "Delicious!"
34 Lugosi of film
36 Observe
37 Nick and Nora's pet
38 Cove
40 Room cooler, for short
41 Pal
43 Geronimo, for one
47 Mound stat
48 1987 Woody Allen movie
51 Hobbyist's abbr.
52 Apple product
53 Pet-food brand
54 Snake's warning
55 Mediocre grades
56 Part of A.D.

DOWN
1 Smooch
2 Spoken
3 Leer at
4 Sargasso wriggler
5 Florida county
6 Genetic letters
7 Whatever
8 Bas-relief medium
9 Winter "no school" times
10 Harvard rival
11 Grant basis, at times
16 TiVo, for example
20 Calendar abbr.
22 Vinegar bottle
23 Low-calorie
24 Weep
25 "Right you —!"
26 Work breaks
27 Church section
29 Belly
30 "I — Rock"
35 Moreover
37 National park in Maine
39 Ira Gershwin's contribution
40 GI's address
41 Hotel furniture
42 "Topaz" author
43 Helps
44 "Misery" star James
45 Church song
46 Old U.S. gas brand
49 Gorilla
50 Fawn's mom

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	L	I	T		C	O	G		A	B	I	T
L	E	N	A		A	H	E		V	A	N	E
M	A	R	T	I	N	E	T		E	S	T	E
S	P	E	E	D	Y		T	O	R	S	O	S
			R	E	O		Y	J	R	I		
Z	E	E		A	N	D		T	E	N	S	E
A	R	T	S		S	E	E		D	E	A	N
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		F	R	O	S		G	O	T			
S	T	R	C	K	F		I	C	W	F	R	S
T	F	N	N		C	I	A	R	I	N	F	T
O	L	E	G		T	I	N		N	I	N	A
P	E	T	S		S	T	D		E	D	D	Y

Yesterday's answer 2-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ellen Page, 32; Jennifer Love Hewitt, 40; William Baldwin, 56; Kelsey Grammer, 64.

Happy Birthday: Consider your options and map out your course. Having an understanding of what it is you want to achieve will make it easier to reach your destination. An opportunity to improve your living arrangements, make a move or mix the old with the new to come up with a plan that leads to success looks promising. Your numbers are 2, 7, 18, 24, 32, 35, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look for an opportunity, and jump at the chance to make a positive change. Refuse to let someone put you down or discourage you from following the path that leads to greater freedom to think and do as you please. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't put on the brakes when you should be speeding up. Nothing will happen if you don't take charge and put your plans in motion. Recognition and advancement are within reach. Celebrate your good fortune with someone special. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Emotional matters will disorient your perception of what's really at stake or happening. Take a closer look at what's transpiring; you'll see who is being honest with you. Make changes based on what's best for yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Express your thoughts and desires. Discussing what you want to see happen will bring you closer to your dreams. A partnership will take a favorable turn and encourage you to take the initiative to improve the way you live your life. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stick to the rules, and take pride in what you do. Note how others respond before you make decisions. Anger will not help you get ahead, but patience and wisdom will. Show compassion, and doors will open. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Get involved in activities that will get you moving and motivated to make self-improvements, new friendships and better relationships with the people who have stood by your side through thick and thin. Romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't miss out on an opportunity because someone is bullying you into taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Make changes that will stop others from interfering in your productivity and ability to live life your way. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Socialize, travel and spend more time with people who inspire you to express your opinions and pursue your creative dreams. Engage in playtime to discover what brings you peace of mind. Share your intentions with someone you love. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be careful who you share your secrets with. Your reputation will be on the line if you are too open and trusting. Focus on personal improvements, not trying to change or impress others. Don't ask for opportunities; create them. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Look past the chaos to focus on what's real. Learn from what others do, and make a point to offer only what's feasible and what you are willing to part with. Nurture the relationships that matter, and let go of things you no longer need. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A change at home or to your surroundings will give you positive reinforcement that you are doing what's best for yourself. Expand your interests as well as your friendships, and learn all you can that will contribute to reaching your goal. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Situations will get blown out of proportion. Listen carefully, and don't say anything if you want to avoid being held accountable. Facts matter, and it will be necessary to make sure that your words are not twisted or misconstrued. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are expressive, questioning and opportunistic. You are friendly and generous. *To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9			3	6			7
							6	3
1						5		2
6	4				1			
				8				
			9				2	5
3		5						9
7	1							
2			1	7			8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	7	4	2	1	5	9	3	8
8	1	9	3	7	4	6	5	2
2	5	3	9	6	8	1	7	4
4	8	6	7	5	2	3	1	9
9	2	5	6	3	1	8	4	7
7	3	1	8	4	9	5	2	6
1	4	7	5	9	6	2	8	3
5	9	8	4	2	3	7	6	1
3	6	2	1	8	7	4	9	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FANCY BALLOONS Solution: 8 letters

E	E	G	N	I	R	T	S	E	P	A	H	S	H	D
L	V	I	N	Y	L	A	T	E	X	T	D	A	E	E
K	E	I	S	S	I	L	V	E	R	E	P	C	L	L
R	N	L	T	D	E	R	E	I	T	P	O	O	I	L
A	T	U	A	S	N	R	B	A	Y	R	N	L	U	I
P	S	F	R	E	E	B	L	B	A	W	L	O	M	F
S	L	R	S	W	O	F	I	T	O	P	A	R	S	R
P	I	O	O	N	N	R	I	L	H	A	M	S	K	I
B	O	L	C	I	T	O	C	C	A	S	I	O	N	A
L	F	O	A	H	N	W	R	I	S	T	N	O	A	R
O	L	C	D	S	R	A	S	B	A	E	A	B	H	E
W	K	A	L	L	S	O	T	L	B	L	Q	M	T	B
U	Y	N	R	E	E	O	M	U	O	S	I	U	N	M
P	D	L	O	G	A	S	R	E	V	O	L	J	I	U
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Machado, Padres agree to $300M, 10-year deal

SAN DIEGO (AP)—With their city's long-suffering fans desperate for a winner, the rebuilding San Diego Padres delivered their splashiest free agent signing ever by agreeing with All-Star infielder Manny Machado on a $300 million, 10-year deal.

A person familiar with the negotiations confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity because the agreement was subject to a successful physical and had not been announced. Machado can opt out after five years and become a free agent again, the person said.

Machado's agreement would be the second-largest in baseball history behind Giancarlo Stanton's $325 million, 13-year deal signed with the Miami Marlins ahead of the 2015 season. It would be the highest deal for a free agent, topping Alex Rodriguez's $275 million, 10-year contract with the New York Yankees from 2008-17.

More records may be broken soon. Free agent outfielder Bryce Harper could top Stanton's deal in coming days or weeks.

That won't matter a bit to Padres fans, who have never celebrated a World Series title and were keeping their fingers crossed in recent days as it became apparent that their team, with a mostly sad-sack history stretching back a half-century, actually had a chance at landing Machado, who is only 26.

Some fans seemed braced for yet another disappointment. But news of the deal was greeted with euphoria on social media.

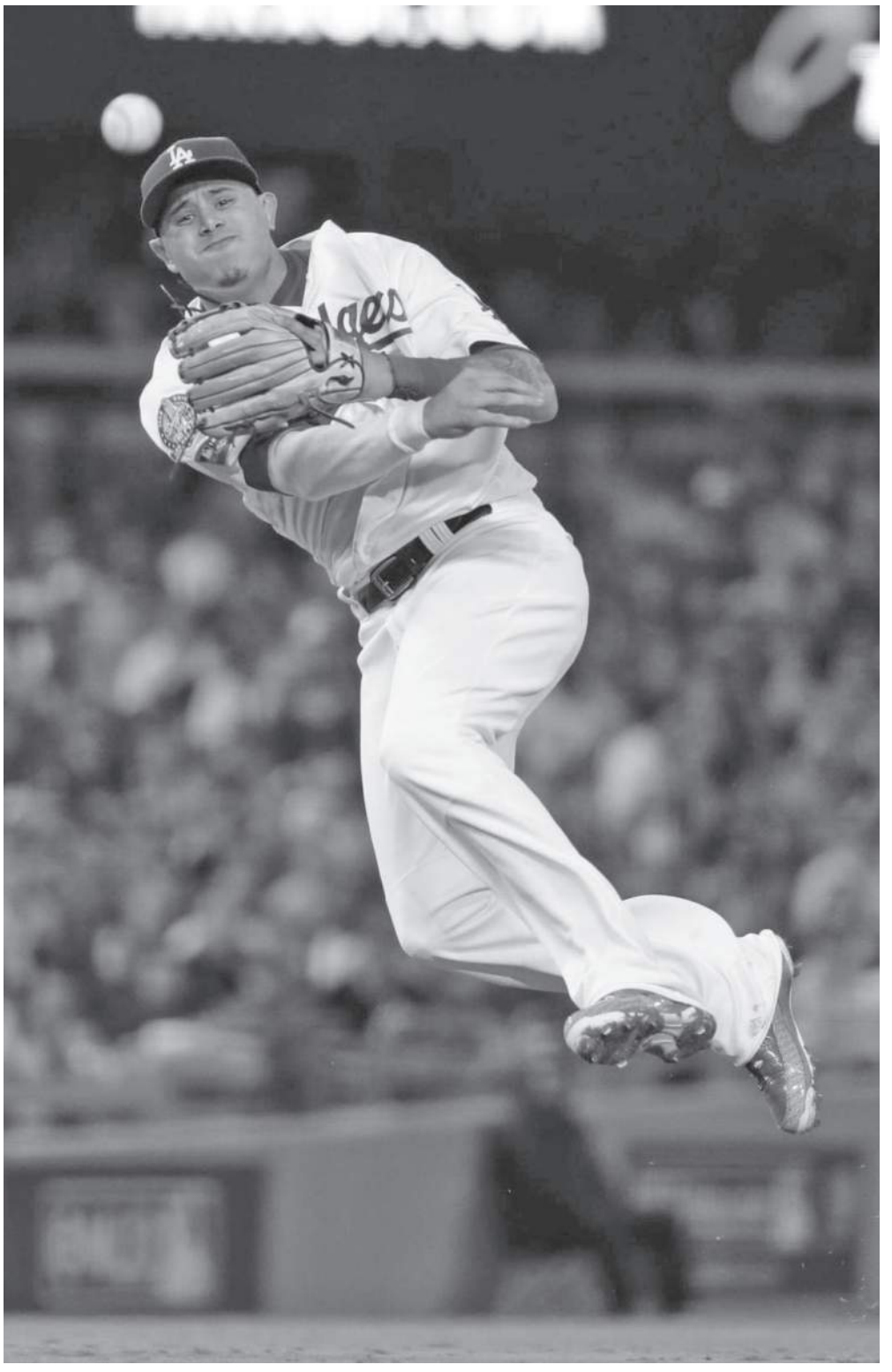
Speaking at spring training in Peoria, Arizona, Padres executive chairman Ron Fowler declined to confirm the deal, saying: "We do not have a deal with any free agent player. We are continuing discussions, and that's all we have to say."

Teams draw a distinction between an agreement subject to a physical and a finalized deal.

While Fowler looked serious, general partner Peter Seidler couldn't help but smile while waiting for his turn to speak.

Without confirming the deal, Seidler— a nephew of former Los Angeles Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley— spoke of what his ownership group wants to bring to San Diego, where the Padres play in a gem of a ballpark just off the bay.

"Ron and I, we love the city of San Diego, we love sports in San Diego, but we're also well aware of the history. There's never been a championship from a major sports franchise in San Diego. ... We as an organization want to completely change that. We want our franchise to win year after year after year. And we're going to do whatever we can rationally do to help make that happen."



AP

In this Oct. 16, 2018 file photo, Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Machado tries to make a play on a single hit by Milwaukee Brewers' Christian Yelich during the eighth inning of Game 4 of the National League Championship Series baseball game in Los Angeles.

The Padres lost 96 games last year, haven't had a winning season since 2010 and haven't been to the playoffs since 2006. They haven't won a playoff series since the 1998 NL Championship against Atlanta. They were routed in their two World Series appearances, by Detroit in 1984 and the New York Yankees in 1998.

And they've had the city's big league sports scene to themselves since the NFL's Chargers moved to the Los Angeles area two seasons ago. The Chargers did win the AFL title in 1963 but were blown out by San Francisco in their only Super Bowl appearance, after the 1994 season.

Other than the AFL title, the biggest championships won around here were probably Little League World Series titles in 2009 by Park View of Chula Vista and in 1961 by El Cajon-La Mesa Northern, which included Brian Sipe, who won the NFL's MVP Award in 1980.

Padres players were ecstatic, even though the signing was not yet official.

Catcher Austin Hedges was headed toward bunting drills when he heard the news. He pumped his fists and said, "I'm just that excited about bunting."

"You see me smiling right here," said first baseman Eric Hosmer, who exactly a year ago earlier finalized a $144 million, eight-year deal with San Diego. "We've all been practicing today, obviously. We've all kind heard what's been going on, and all we can say is he's a guy we'd love to have, and I think it changes things pretty quickly if we do have him here.

"He's one of the top guys in the league," Hosmer added. "Obviously extremely young free agent that's got a lot of amazing baseball left in him and he's already had a lot of amazing baseball in his career. We're all just glad he'll hopefully be here with us in San Diego."

The Padres have been rebuilding mostly via their top-rated farm system since a failed win-now approach with high-priced veterans in 2015.

Machado is expected to fill the team's glaring need at third base. He began last year at shortstop with Baltimore, was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers after the All-Star break and split time and shortstop and third. He struck out to end the World Series loss to Boston.

Commissioner Rob Manfred said the deal, if it goes through, is "a great thing. The Padres were active last year in the free-agent market, obviously a big signing with Eric Hosmer. This would be another one, if in fact that's what happened. And I think it's good for baseball to have big stars present in some of our smaller markets and see those markets really being out there willing to compete for the best talent."

With Machado on board, the next big move for the Padres, whether by opening day or later in the season, is expected to be the promotion of shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr., the 20-year-old son of a former big leaguer and the No. 2 overall prospect in baseball.

A four-time All-Star, Machado hit .297 last year and set career bests with 37 homers and 107 RBIs. A four-time All-Star and two-time Gold Glove winner, he has a .282 career average with 175 homers and 513 RBIs in seven big league seasons.

The Chicago White Sox offered $250 million for eight years, a person familiar with that proposal said. That person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the club did not publicly disclose its offer. The White Sox were trying to get in position for a second title under owner Jerry Reinsdorf, who turns 83 next week.

"Still in a bit of disbelief," executive vice president Kenny Williams said. "I feel we put our best foot forward. Jerry, in particular, really stepped up."

Machado also met with the Yankees, a team that had expressed concern over Machado's remarks about hustling — not hustling, actually — during the playoffs.

After failing to run out a grounder in the NL Championship Series, Machado said: "Obviously I'm not going to change, I'm not the type of player that's going to be 'Johnny Hustle' and run down the line and slide to first base."

Machado tried to clarify his remarks after the season, saying, "looking back, it doesn't come across how I meant it."

Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner took notice of Machado's initial comments, labeling them "troubling" and added, "That ain't going to sell where we play baseball."

No worries. Padres fans will take him.

Manfred: Slow market may be 'much ado about nothing'

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred predicts top free agents will all get deals and the second slow free-agent market won't have lasting significance.

"In some ways I feel like it's a little much ado about nothing if in fact those players all sign at the end of the day," he said Tuesday. "The season's going to go on. We're going to have the right players out there playing on the field, and it's kind of no harm, no foul."

Manny Machado agreed hours earlier to a $300 million, 10-year deal with San Diego, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was subject to a successful physical.

Machado's deal is a record for a free agent and the second-largest in baseball history behind Giancarlo Stanton's $325 million, 13-year contract.

Bryce Harper, Dallas Keuchel and Craig Kimbrel remain on the market just ahead of the start of spring training games this week. Throughout the major leagues, players have criticized teams for not spending to land top available stars and started to push for significant changes in the collective bargaining agreement, which runs through the 2021 season.

"I do think are a little overblown right now," Manfred said. "I do think it would be helpful if we tried to not sensationalize the back and forth on the individual issues. I think that the dialogue is best conducted in a room between the bargaining parties."

Management has proposed on-field changes, such as a pitch clock and limits on relief pitchers. Union head Tony Clark and his members would like the designated hitter to expand to the National League and changes to the amateur draft to make rebuilding through the draft less attractive. They have criticized teams for failing to try to win now, and Clark on Monday questioned whether some teams justify the cost of their tickets.

"I would urge Tony and the players to save what they had to say for the bargaining table, where we can hear it directly and we can address it and hopefully reach a positive solution for the industry," Manfred said. "I don't think it really helps to subject our fans to all this back and forth."

Tiger makes adjustment for WGC in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—After a day of leisure to recharge his batteries, Tiger Woods was back in a new office and making the most of every minute he was on the clock.

"Hell, yeah, it's a lot of work," Woods said Tuesday during a quick nine holes alongside Justin Thomas and Billy Horschel at Club de Golf Chapultepec, home to this week's World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship.

It was the first time Woods saw the course, which rests some 7,800 feet above sea level. It is also the first time Woods will play a tournament in high altitude since 1999. Back then, he finished in a tie for 37th in the Sprint International at Castle Pines Golf Club in Castle Rock, Colorado, which is 6,500 feet above sea level.

So he spent about 45 minutes on the range with caddie Joey LaCava and Trackman, a launch monitor that examines each shot's characteristics including ball speed, spin rate and distance.

During his round with Thomas and Horschel, he continued to dial in his distances, spent a considerable amount of time on and around the Poa annua greens that he said were bouncy, and got familiar with the layout.

He hit a soft, high cut 3-wood 345 yards on the downhill, par-5 11th. On the par-3 13th, he went full out into the wind with a 5-iron from 235 yards and was long. Throughout the nine holes, he got a better measure of what the ball will do.

"The spin is the same, but the ball stays flat. It doesn't peak," Woods said.

For that reason, he will have a 5-wood in his bag this week instead of the 2-iron.

"The 5-wood will spin more," Woods said.

All in all, LaCava said, it was a good day's work.

"It's a work in progress," LaCava said. "But he looks good so far."

Meanwhile, the PGA Tour again is taking a close look at changing the size of its cuts, and this time the idea appears to have some legs.

One topic at the first Player Advisory Council meeting last Tuesday at Riviera was to change the 36-hole cut from top 70 and ties to top 65 and ties, which is what the European Tour and the Web.com Tour do.

"There's some traction for it," said Jordan Spieth, in his first year on the policy board. "The argument is the MDFs don't look good and twosomes on the weekend are better for everybody, including the viewership."

The MDF was the tour's first crack at avoiding bloated fields for the final round. It stands for "Made the cut, did not finish," and it was passed unanimously at the end of 2007. Whenever more than 78 players make the cut, a 54-hole cut is in play to narrow the field to top 70 and ties.

This would be another step, though it's in the early stages.



AP

Tiger Woods tees off on the 17th hole during the final round of the Genesis Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles.

No open vote on Women's World Cup host

LONDON (AP)—FIFA will still decide the host of the Women's World Cup in secret, unlike the new open vote held last year for host of the 2026 men's tournament.

The 2023 Women's World Cup bidding process was launched Tuesday, and FIFA adopted many of the rigorous checks and scrutiny prospective men's hosts now have to go through.

But the final decision is a very different process.

Following corruption investigations into the vote for men's hosts in 2018 and 2022, FIFA removed the decision from its ruling committee and gave it to all member associations. When it came to deciding the 2026 men's hosts last year, the votes were made public after the FIFA Congress chose the joint bid from the United States, Mexico and Canada over Morocco's entry.

But in March 2020 it will be the FIFA Council, a group of 37 people which meets in private, deciding where the women's top players will compete in 2023.

"FIFA's statutes explicitly stipulate that the selection of venues for the final competitions of all tournaments rests with the FIFA Council with the exception of the FIFA World Cup, where their power lies with the Congress," world football's governing body said in a statement to The Associated Press on Tuesday.

FIFA on Tuesday asked countries to make an expression of interest in bidding by March 15, complete the bidding registration by April 16 and submit bid books by Oct. 4.

No mention was made of bidders having to go through the key procedures, described as "bulletproof" by FIFA President Gianni Infantino, that were required of 2026 World Cup contenders. Those included an assessment of human rights and risk reports for the countries, the publication of bid books, inspections of facilities and evaluation reports.

Ninety minutes after the AP asked why these criteria and process were not listed as being in place for women's World Cup bidding, FIFA said it would be emulating those aspects of the men's showpiece hosting requirements.

"It's good to see that, as with the 2026 FIFA World Cup bidding process, that human rights criteria are included, and that the bid documents, including the human rights strategy, is made available publicly," said Mary Harvey, the chief executive of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, who won the inaugural World Cup in 1991 as a United States goalkeeper.

Australia, Colombia, Japan and South Africa have already expressed an interest in bidding for the event in 2023.

FIFA chief women's football officer Sarai Bareman said she wants to see "how potential host countries will aim to promote the ultimate competition in women's football, and create a sustainable legacy that will inspire upcoming generations of young girls and women to get involved in the game."

The next edition is this year in France from June 7 to July 7, when the United States will be defending its title.

Brown meets with Steelers head, saying 'it is time to move on'

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown has ended his lengthy standoff with the team by meeting with president Art Rooney II, though any shot at reconciliation between the two sides appears to be out of the question.

Brown, who has asked to be traded, posted a picture on various social media accounts on Tuesday that showed him arm in arm with Rooney at the Palm Beach International Airport.

"We discussed a lot of things and we cleared the air on several issues!" Brown wrote. "We both agreed that it is time to move on but I'll always have appreciation and gratitude towards the Rooney family and @steelers organization!"

Brown still has three years remaining on the $72 million contract he signed in the spring of 2017, and remains one of the most dynamic performers in the league. He is the only player in NFL history with six consecutive 100-catch seasons and he hauled in 104 receptions for 1,297 yards and a franchise-record 15 touchdowns in 2018.

Yet his relationship with the team has deteriorated over the past several months.

The low point came before Pittsburgh's game against Cincinnati in Week 17. The team sent him home with an apparent leg injury on the Friday before the game and he failed to provide coach Mike Tomlin with an update until Sunday morning, when his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, let Tomlin know that Brown was available to play.

Tomlin opted to make Brown inactive and Brown did not show up to clean out his locker or conduct an exit interview with the coaching staff. He pulled out of the Pro Bowl with an injury, and Rooney indicated the team had been unable to make contact with Brown in the weeks after Pittsburgh finished 9-6-1 and failed to reach the playoffs.

Brown has continued to be a vocal critic of the Steelers during his estrangement from the team. Over the weekend, he took aim at Tomlin and Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger for their role in the deteriorating relationship between Brown and the club.

In Texas, the Cowboys aren't picking up a team option on the final year of Terrance Williams' contract, making the receiver an unrestricted free agent after he spent his first six NFL seasons in Dallas.

The move will create $2.25 million in salary cap space. Williams had just two catches for 18 yards in a season spent mostly on injured reserve because of complications following offseason surgery for a broken right foot. He also served a three-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy.

The 29-year-old Williams had career highs of eight touchdown catches in 2014 and 840 yards receiving in 2015. He was the No. 2 receiver behind Dez Bryant most of his career with the Cowboys.

Williams probably would have had a limited role this year after Dallas traded a first-round pick for Amari Cooper during the 2018 season and rookie Michael Gallup showed progress.

In East Rutherford, the New York Giants have re-signed tight end Scott Simonson.

The Giants announced the signing Tuesday. The 27-year-old appeared in all 16 games last season and earned $705,000. Contract terms for this season were not immediately available.

Simonson had career highs of nine receptions for 96 yards at Indianapolis on Dec. 23, including his first touchdown on a 3-yard reception. He joined the Giants as a free agent in June.

Kareem: Players like Davis have value and hold power



AP
Former NBA player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, center, speaks with Dominque Wilkins, left, as former player Bill Russell is seen at right during the NBA All-Star skills session basketball contest, Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C.

MIAMI (AP) — There was no social media or around-the-clock basketball coverage in October 1974, on the night when Kareem Abdul-Jabbar looked up from his dinner plate and told the Milwaukee Bucks that he would like to be traded.

As such, hardly anybody knew initially about the demand.

If anyone understands what Anthony Davis is thinking, asking for a trade out of New Orleans with nearly 1 1/2 seasons left on his contract, it's Abdul-Jabbar. His trade request came with two years left on his contract in Milwaukee. Eventually, he got his wish in the summer that followed his ask and got traded to the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I think that the players have power because they have value," Abdul-Jabbar said. "The players that teams know that they can win with are going to be in a position to dictate what they want to do."

And while few people would disagree with that, the fact that Davis' request went public—and the impact it had on the both the Pelicans and the Lakers, the team that appeared to go after the six-time All-Star the hardest before the trade deadline came and went earlier this month without a move being consummated—did not sit well with a number of the league's former players at All-Star weekend.

And it isn't about the money. Top players like Davis, who will likely get his trade request fulfilled this summer are going to be well compensated one way or the other. But some think he might have been better served keeping it quiet until then.

"I just think it's a situation where they needed to keep it in house," Hall of Fame guard Rick Barry said. "Just talk to the owners. Talk amongst yourselves. Airing your dirty laundry and putting stuff out there ... I just don't understand why you want to get into a situation like that that does nobody any good and can only cause problems."

Like Abdul-Jabbar, and like Davis, Barry also forced a trade. Back in his ABA days, he made it known that when the Washington Caps were moving to Norfolk, Virginia, he wanted no part of playing there. So Barry got traded to the New York Nets, the entire trade "saga" lasting no more than a week or two and all done during an offseason.

Davis asking in-season, Barry said, had a negative effect on both the Pelicans and the Lakers.

"Doing it a year before, I don't understand," Barry said. "Hopefully they won't continue doing it that far in advance."

Actually, that is nothing new.

Kyrie Irving had two years, plus an option year, left on his deal with Cleveland when he asked for a trade and eventually got moved to the Boston Celtics. Paul George had a year left when he told Indiana that he wanted out. Both of those requests went public, and it could be argued that the Cavaliers and Pacers were ailed, at least somewhat, by losing leverage since it was no secret the superstars wanted to be moved.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver doesn't like trade demands, especially ones that go public. When the NBA adopted its most recent collective bargaining agreement, Silver said the notion was that teams would have the option to extend player deals a year early to avoid being blindsided by requests by those players to leave.

It hasn't worked that way, with Davis just being the latest example.

"The law of unintended consequences," Silver said. "It hasn't worked precisely as we had planned."

Irving had a title with the Cavaliers. Kawhi Leonard had a championship with San Antonio when he asked to be moved, and ultimately got his way. George still doesn't have a championship, though flirted with one plenty of times when he was in Indiana only to be thwarted on annual basis by the Miami Heat.

Davis doesn't have one. He hasn't been close. New Orleans went to the second round of the playoffs last year, a great sign of progress. This year the Pelicans have plummeted back toward the bottom of the Western Conference. And Davis realizes that his window for winning and being elite won't last forever, so mindful of his legacy he wants to be moved.

The great players are rich and going to be rich no matter where they play. The ring is also very much the thing, and Davis knows helping lead a team to a championship is vital to how he will be remembered.

"I just want to win," Davis said at All-Star weekend.

The Pelicans haven't done enough of it, and this year was the wrong time for their winning percentage to fall off a cliff. So Davis made the ask, and Hall of Famer Dave Cowens said that's fine—as long as he accepts whatever comes next, whether it's good or bad.

"If a player wants to usurp or influence a decision on personnel, then the accountability for that move if it doesn't work out, that's what it's about," Cowens said. "You can't have union and management doing the same things. ... To me, it starts with the accountability. That's the biggest thing."

Abdul-Jabbar said he understands why Davis' trade request is getting so much attention.

It's because Davis—averaging 28 points and 13 rebounds this season—is worth it.

"That's always going to be the case," Abdul-Jabbar said. "The most talented people out there in the job market are going to get the most attention."

Celtics still figuring things out heading into stretch run

BOSTON (AP)—One way or another, the spotlight was always going to shine on the Boston Celtics in an Eastern Conference without LeBron James.

After back-to-back losses to James' Cavaliers in the past two conference finals, his departure West to join the Los Angeles Lakers seemed to clear the path for Boston to take the reins in the East.

That hasn't happened—yet.

Instead of solidifying themselves as the NBA champion Golden State Warriors' chief challenger, the Celtics come out of the All-Star break still with much to figure out—and trailing Milwaukee and Toronto in the East standings.

"We realize that we've played well in the last month and a half," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "Although there have been multiple days when I'm sure it hasn't felt like it."

Beginning with a win over Toronto on Jan. 16, Boston won 12 of its final 15 games before the break. It also included wins over five other teams currently in position to make the playoffs. But Boston also blew an 18-point lead in a last-second loss to the Lakers and a 28-point lead two days later in a loss to the Clippers.

The Celtics recovered to post close wins at Philadelphia and at home against Detroit in their final game before the break. And they did it without Kyrie Irving, who missed both games with a strained right knee.

Irving was able to play 25 minutes in the All-Star game and is expected to be back in the starting lineup Thursday when Boston plays at Milwaukee. That matchup is the start of a three-game road trip that includes a visit to Toronto.

The Celtics will need a healthy Irving; both the Bucks and Raptors made improvements at the trade deadline.

Milwaukee picked up big man Nikola Mirotic in a deal with the Pelicans. The Raptors added Marc Gasol from Memphis in exchange for center Jonas Valanciunas. Stevens said the assumption is that both teams "would only benefit from those moves."

Much of the buzz around Boston at the deadline centered on whether Anthony Davis would still be around this summer for the Celtics and other teams to potentially make deals for him.

For now, Boston remains focused on trying to find cohesion and consistency on a roster that has an All-Star in Irving, former All-Stars in Gordon Hayward and Al Horford and tons of young talent led by Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown.

Tatum and Brown carried the team with Hayward out for the year and Irving missing most of the second half with a knee issue. Stevens knew making the group gel with everyone healthy would be a challenge and it has.

Hayward has gone from a starter to coming off the bench as he continues to try and rediscover his timing after missing all but one game last year following his devastating ankle injury. He's started just 17 games this season, his average is down to 11.2 points per game and he is shooting just 44 percent from the field.

Tatum is scoring more points in his second season (16.5 ppg, up from 13.9), but has seen his field-goal percentage drop from 48 down to 45 and his 3-point percentage drop from 43 to 38 percent. Brown has played well lately but is still adjusting to his role off the bench.

Meanwhile Irving has remained steady, averaging 24 points and seven assists per game, earning his sixth All-Star nod. He is the only player in the NBA this season averaging 23 points and six assists, while also shooting 40 percent from beyond the arc.

The Celtics also remain a top 5 defensive team, one of their hallmarks under Stevens.

Still, questions continue to follow a team that at 37-21 is already approaching its total number of losses from a year ago (55-27).

MCS 1 impresses in season debut

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Mt. Carmel School 1 started the season on the right foot after defeating Agape Christian School 1, 63-45, in the boys division game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League yesterday at Koblerville Gymnasium

Chioni Dela Cruz spearheaded the Knights' season-debut victory against the Torchbearers after firing a game-high 17 points. Dela Cruz showcased versatility on offense, as he swished three 3-pointers, took advantage of fast break opportunities with his get-away layups, and converted several contested shots.

Backing up Dela Cruz in the Knights' first game of the season were three of his teammates. Starting point guard Matthew Richardson also finished in double digits with his 11 points, while Keith Santos and Min Soo Park chipped in with 8 markers apiece.

As for Agape 1, the Torchbearers remained in contention after the first half, 25-32, thanks largely to Kobe Yang's 11 points scoring in first two quarters. The visiting team then fought hard to keep up with Mt. Carmel after the intermission, but the Torchbearers failed to counter the Knights' 24-point scoring outburst in the third canto.

Yang finished with 17 points on a losing effort, while Peter Wang chipped in 8. Silas Xu and John Chen added 7 points apiece.

In other results, Grace Christian Academy stormed past Agape 2, 63-25, at the latter's court in Gualo Rai.

The win allowed the Eagles to bounce back from their season-debut loss to Saipan Southern High School last Tuesday, while the defeat was second in as many games for Agape 2.

The Manta Rays also played their second match yesterday and withstood a dogfight against hosts Kagman High School, 51-47. With the close victory, Saipan Southern now has a 2-0 record for the early lead, while the Ayuyus dropped to a 1-1 mark.

Over at Saipan International School's home court in As Lito, the Geckos outlasted MCS 2, 37-31. SIS matched Kagman's 1-1 record, while MCS 2 remains winless after two games.

Meanwhile, in the lone girls division match at the Koblerville Gymnasium, MCS edged Agape 24-17.

Games in the high school league will continue today with MCS 1 lacing up against the ACS 2 at the Koblerville facility.



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
A Mt. Carmel School 1 player takes off for a layup during their game against Agape Christian School 1 in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Mt. Carmel School 1 coach Francis San Nicolas gives instructions to his players during a break in their game against Agape Christian School 1 in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

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last season, as besides helping take care of the Oleai Sports Complex and running local tournaments, he coached both the men's and women's basketball teams and the athletics squad in the Micro Games.

Under the veteran coach's guidance, the CNMI won 13 medals in athletics—two golds, five silvers, and six bronzes.

"I would like to share this award to all my athletes—past and present. They are the ones who keep on pushing me, as I try my best to share what I know in sports and help them become better athletes. I learned a lot from every athlete I coached. I also want to thank my family for supporting me in my passion," said the CNMI Sports Hall of Famer.

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Then last October, she reigned supreme in the 2018 Northern Marianas Athletics/Public School System All Schools Cross Country Championships, while last November, she won in her age group in the 34th Annual Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run.

Tan was also a perennial winner in 5K and 10K events on Saipan and in Guam, she led the CNMI to a Top 3 finish in the 2018 Asia Pacific Invitational Cross Country Championships. Tan, who won the NMSA monthly award three times last year, was also the first Commonwealth runner to make it to the All-Island Team in the Asia Pacific race.

Sapong, who was Female Athlete of the Year in 2016 and 2017, joined Tan on the CNMI Team that competed in the Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships 2018 and bagged the gold in the 100m and silver in the 200m run. Then less than two months after the competition on Saipan, Sapong went to Yap for the 2018 Micronesian Games and brought home a gold medal (200m run) and bronze (4x400m relay). Earlier in March last year, the 21-year-old athlete set a personal best time in the 60m run in the 17th IAAF World Indoor Championships held in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

While the three top awardees for 2018 have been joining international and local events for the past several years, Ada is a newcomer to competitions.

In fact, he just got into weightlifting (less than a year) when he donned the CNMI colors in the Micro Games. Despite his lack of experience, the Public School System employee made a good account of himself in his regional competition debut, winning a pair of silver medals and one bronze in Yap.

Serena back in Top 10 after giving birth

LONDON (AP)—Serena Williams has returned to the top 10 in the tennis rankings for the first time since taking a break to have her first child.

Williams dropped as low as 491st upon her return to competition in March 2018 but is up to No. 10 after reaching two Grand Slam finals since, losing to Angelique Kerber at Wimbledon and Naomi Osaka at the U.S. Open.

Williams hasn't played since her quarterfinal loss to Karolina Pliskova at last month's Australian Open, but she still overtook Caroline Wozniacki. The Danish player's points from reaching last year's Doha semifinals expired this week.

Osaka remains at the top of the rankings. Simona Halep is second and Sloane Stephens is third, while Petra Kvitova dropped to fourth.

Meanwhile, Osaka lost her first match since moving up to No. 1 in the WTA rankings —and first since splitting from her coach.

The two-time major champion had trouble with her serve and was beaten 6-3, 6-3 by 67th-ranked Kristina Mladenovic at the Dubai Championships in a little more than an hour on Tuesday.

Afterward, Osaka wiped away tears while speaking to reporters and discussing the difficulty of dealing with her new-found spot atop the sport.

"I don't think I necessarily understand what position I'm in, in a way. Because last year, I wasn't even anywhere close to this ranking. People didn't pay attention to me — and that's something that I'm comfortable with," Osaka said.

"I don't really like attention," she said. "It's been a little tough."

Playing a second-round match after an opening bye as the tournament's top seed, Osaka won only 5 of 27 second-serve points, just 19 percent, and barely half of her first-serve points, 12 of 22.

She was broken seven of the nine times she served.

Mladenovic came into the Dubai Championships with a record of 0-4 in 2019.

Osaka had not competed since winning the Australian Open in January for her second consecutive Grand Slam title, a victory that also allowed her to become the first tennis player from Asia to lead the rankings.

Last week, Osaka announced on Twitter that she would no longer work with coach Sascha Bajin, who began coaching her before last season and helped her win the U.S. Open in September.

Osaka didn't offer an explanation for the split at the time, but addressed it during a media availability before the Dubai tournament, saying: "Everyone thinks it was a money-related issue, but it wasn't. ... I think my reason is I wouldn't put success over my happiness."



Machado, Padres agree to $300M, 10-year deal

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Kareem: Players like Davis have value and hold power

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TAN, ADA EARN FIRST TOP ATHLETE AWARD

3rd time for Schorr, Sapong









By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Robbie Schorr and Zarinae Sapong earned their third top athlete award, while Tania Tan and Rodrigo Ada got their first during the 2018 NMSA Tan Siu Lin Foundation Annual Sports Banquet held last night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Schorr and Tan were named the TSL Foundation Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year for their outstanding performance in tennis and athletics. Sapong, also from athletics, took the Female Athlete of the Year trophy, while Ada of weightlifting brought home the Male Athlete of the Year award.

The 16-year-old Schorr was recognized for ruling the boys U16 singles event in the 2018 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships. He stunned the No. 1 seed player in the POJC to rank first in the region that is made up of 22 countries. The Saipan International School student also suited up for the Pacific Oceania Team that played and was promoted in the Asia/Oceania Junior Davis Cup. He represented the CNMI in ITF Junior tournaments in Fiji, New Caledonia, and Australia. Schorr won the NMSA Male Athlete of the Month twice last year (March and July) and added his 2018 trophy to the ones he got in 2014 and 2016.

Tan, another SIS student, made it to the elite list of U18 athletes, after her medal-winning performances in the Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships 2018 hosted at the Oleai Sports Complex, and impressive runs in local and regional races.

The 17-year-old clinched gold medals in the 5,000 and 3,000m runs and silver in the 1,500m event in the Oceania Micronesia meet in June.

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Weightlifters, Rangamar recognized

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI averted a dismal showing in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap, thanks to the weightlifting team assembled by its president John Davis.

The squad, which was composed of Rodrigo Ada, Antonette Labausa, Bonnie Cruz, Joey Tudela, and Angel San Nicolas, handed the Commonwealth 15 medals—the most by any CNMI team in last year's competition—giving the Commonwealth the push in the final week of the quadrennial event. The five weightlifters combined for six gold medals, seven silvers, and three bronzes to save the day for Team Marianas.

With their success in Yap, the Commonwealth's weightlifting crew was the hands down winner of the Team of the Year award.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Rodrigo Ada, Angel San Nicolas, Joey Tudela, Antonette Labausa, and Bonnie Cruz of weightlifting pose for a photo after receiving the Team of the Year award during the 2018 NMSA Tan Siu Lin Foundation Annual Sports Banquet last night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



RANGAMAR

"We've done this without getting support," Davis said. "The team and our group have proven ourselves. This (winning in the Micro Games) proves the big potential of the sport here and we just have to get more people involved so we can continue this."

The weighlifting team was recognized last night during the 2018 NMSA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Annual Sports Banquet held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, joining other team and individual awardees.

Also included on the honor roll was Elias Rangamar, who was named Coach of the Year—his fourth award after earning back-to-back in 2008 and 2009 and getting his first in 2004.

Rangamar had his hands full

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